

"Astonishing!" -BRYAN KONIECKO, AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER



THE NAMELESS CITY

FAITH ERIN HICKS

color by Jordie Bellaire



LIRO

RIVER OF LIVES

YISUN

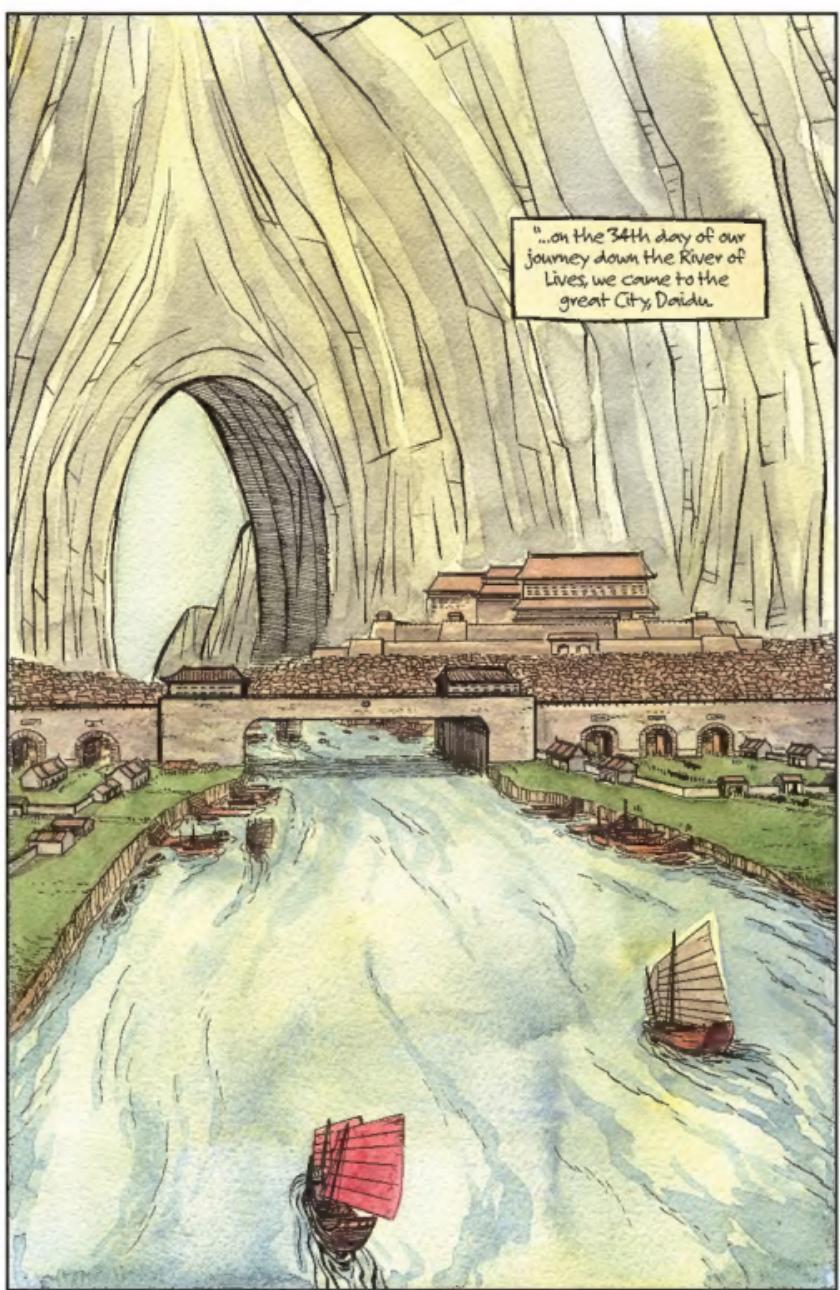
THE NAMELESS CITY



Drio

THE NAMELESS CITY





"...on the 34th day of our
journey down the River of
Lives, we came to the
great City, Daidu.

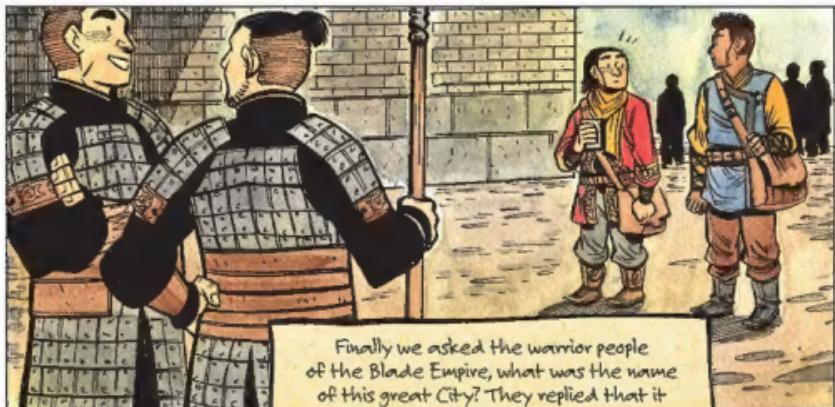
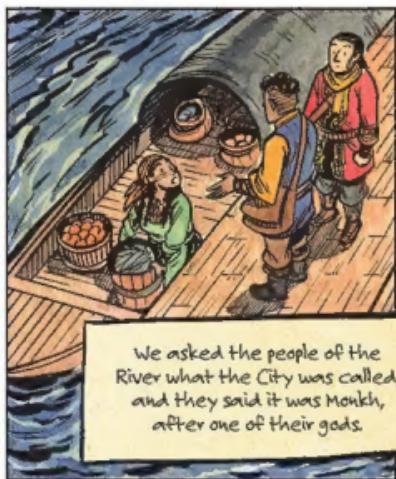
But something was amiss, for the City was not called Daidu by those we spoke to at its gates.



We asked the horse people of the Eastern Plain what the name of the City was, and they replied that it was Yanjing, after their greatest general, long dead.



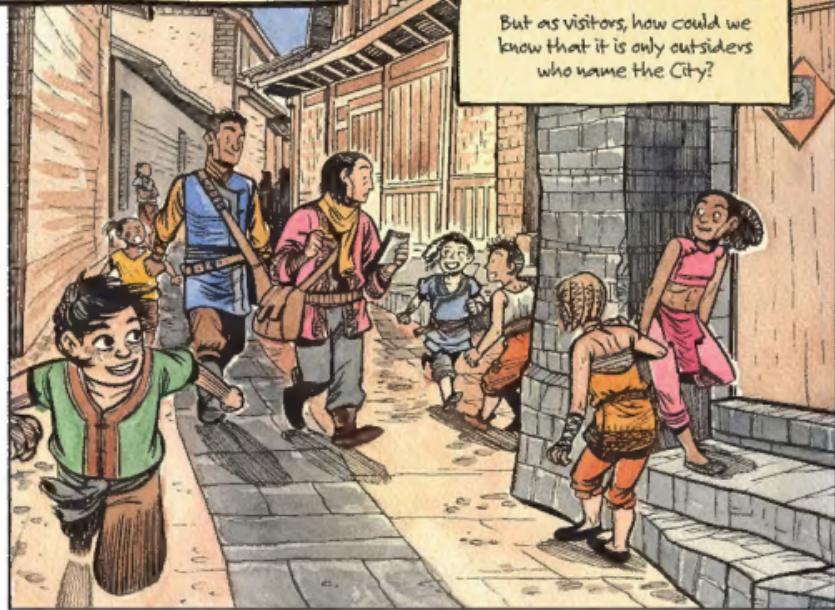
We asked the people of the River what the City was called, and they said it was Monk, after one of their gods.



Finally we asked the warrior people of the Blade Empire, what was the name of this great City? They replied that it was Dan Dao, after themselves, for they had conquered it.

Then we asked the children who lived in the streets of the City to give us its name, and they laughed at our foolishness.

But as visitors, how could we know that it is only outsiders who name the City?



The City is named over and over, and no conquerors can name it for long.





We move on in our
journey down the great
River of Lives, and behind
us we leave the City of a
thousand names...

...the City of no name...





The Nameless City.

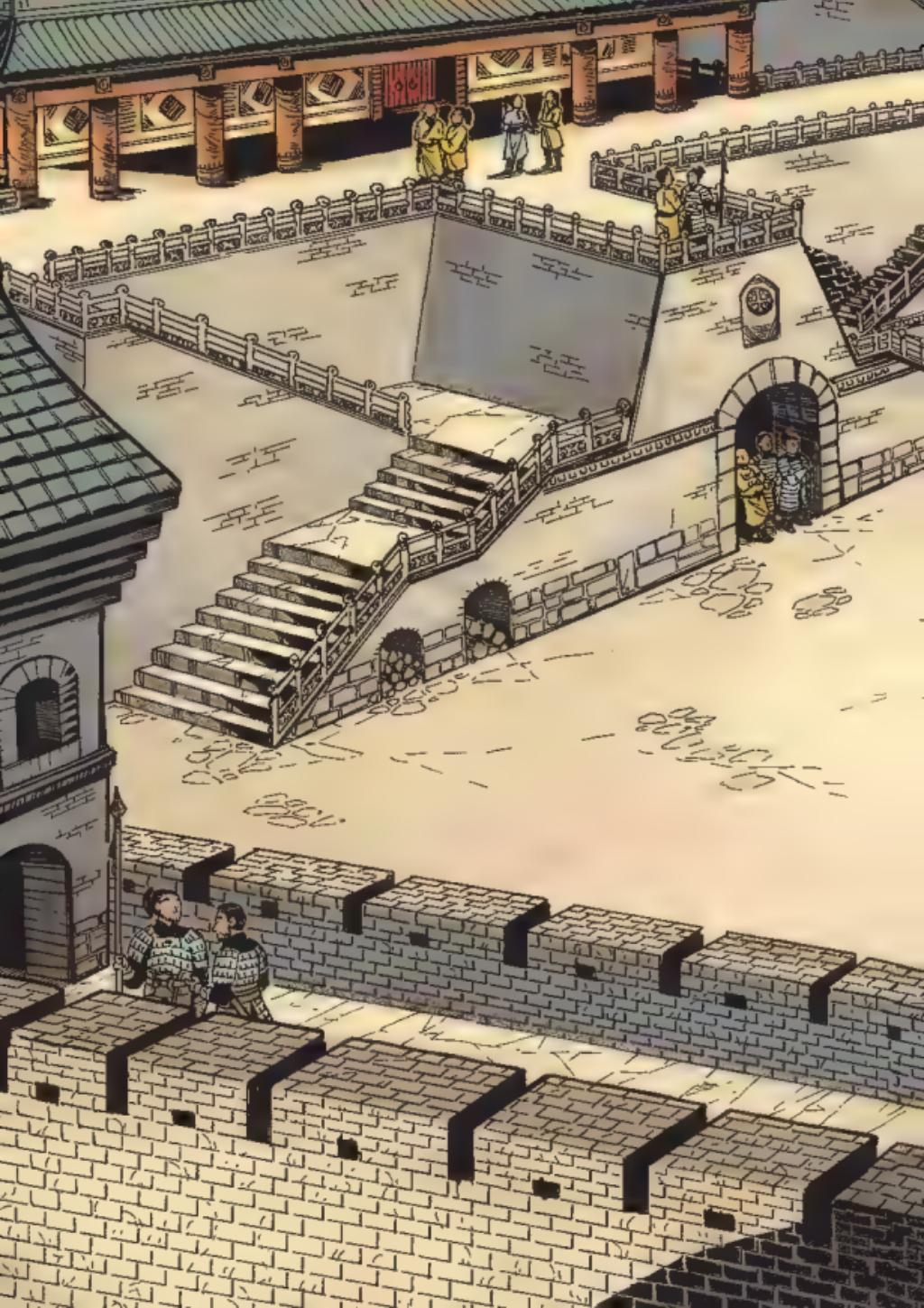
THE NAMELESS CITY

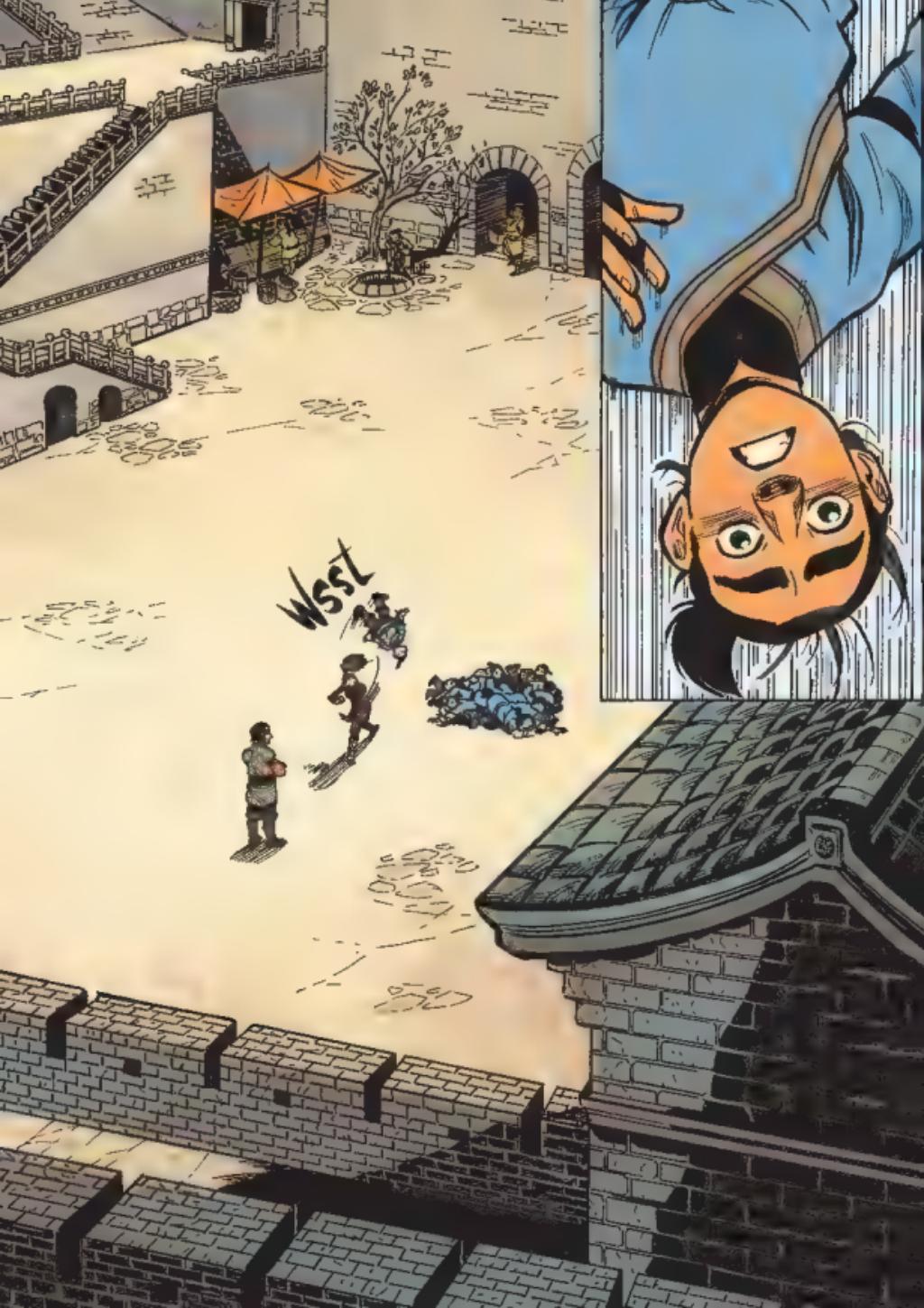
FAITH ERIN HICKS

COLOR BY JORDIE BELLAIRE

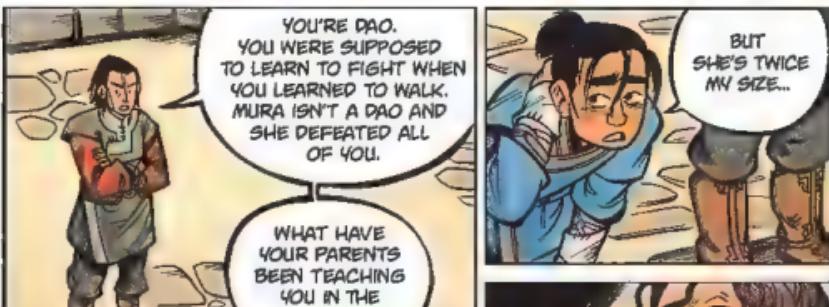


First Second
NEW YORK











BEYOND
THESE WALLS IS A
CITY OF GREAT WEALTH,
A PLACE THROUGH WHICH
ALL COMMERCE PASSES.
WHOEVER HAS THE CITY
CONTROLS THE FLOW OF
WEALTH THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD.



THIRTY
YEARS AGO, MY
FATHER, THE GENERAL
OF ALL BLADES, LED AN
INVASION ARMY AND
TOOK THE CITY FOR
HIS PEOPLE.

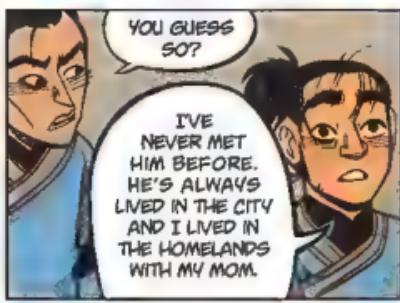
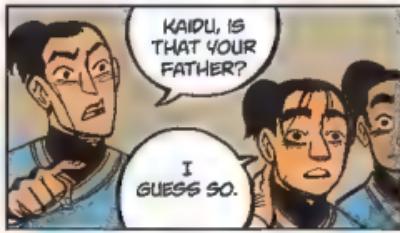
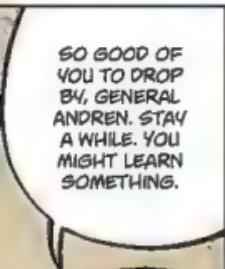
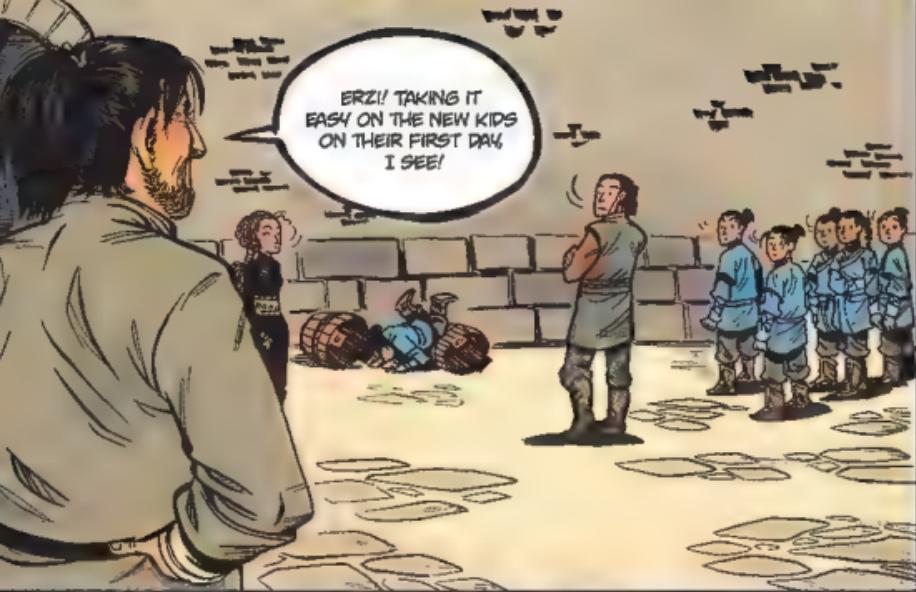
FIVE YEARS
AFTER THE
INVASION, I WAS
BORN IN THE CITY.
THE FIRST DAO
CHILD BORN
HERE.

MY FATHER
NAMED ME ERZI,
A SON OF
THE CITY.



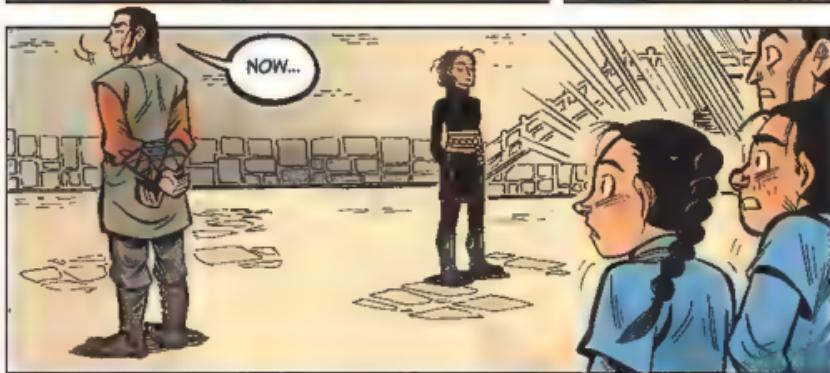
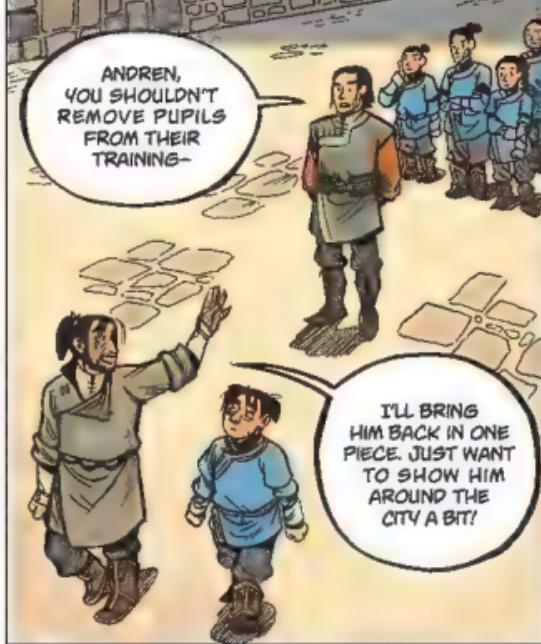


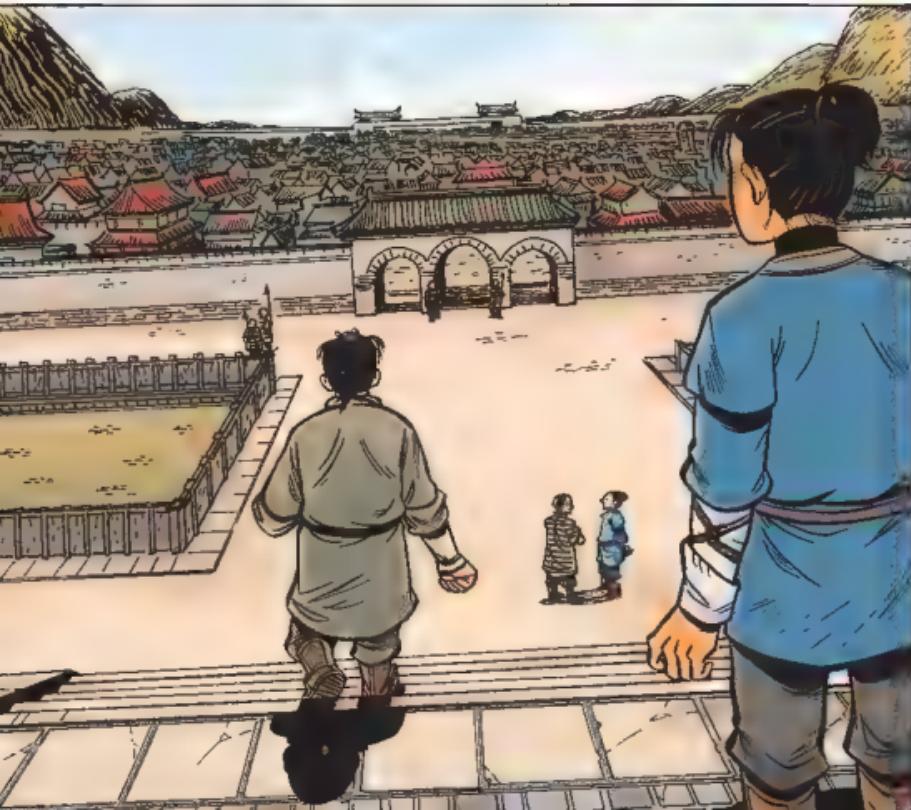


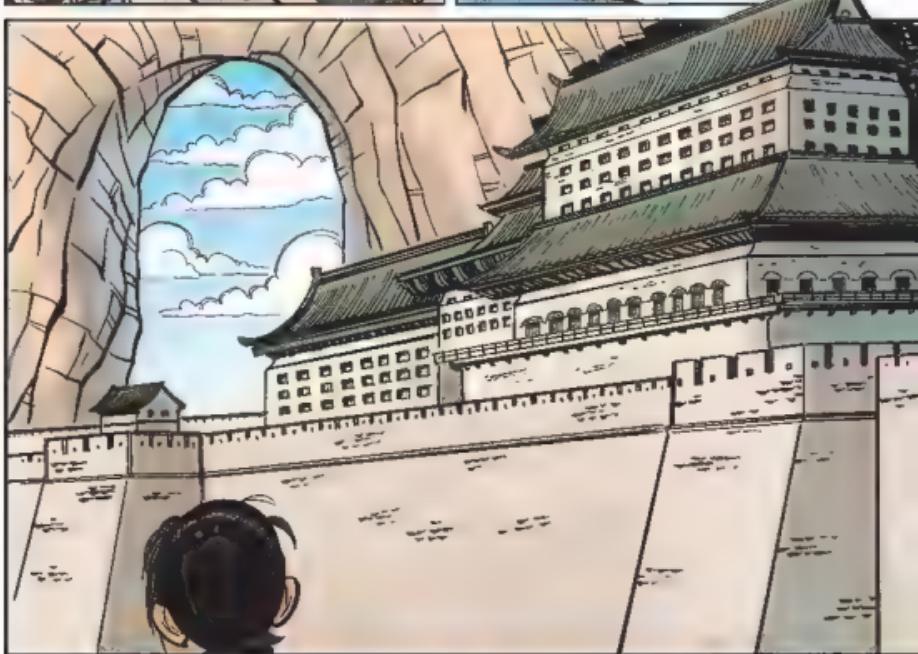
















ERZI SET THAT GIRL OF HIS ON YOU? THAT BOY TAKES THINGS TOO SERIOUSLY.

IF IT WAS UP TO HIM, WE'D BE MOBILIZED FOR WAR EVERY WAKING MOMENT.

BUT...
ISN'T THE CITY SURROUNDED BY DAO ENEMIES?

YES, IT IS. THE DAO ARE THE SMALLEST OF THE THREE GREAT NATIONS, AND WE ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON: WE WANT CONTROL OF THE NAMELESS CITY.

WHY ARE YOU CALLING IT THE NAMELESS CITY? IT'S CALLED DANDAO. THE GENERAL OF ALL BLADES NAMED IT.

SO HE DID!
THE CITY IS CALLED DANDAO AND YANJING AND CAMBULLUC. IT HAS A THOUSAND NAMES.

ASK TEN DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM ALL THE DIFFERENT NATIONS WHAT THE CITY'S NAME IS, AND YOU'LL GET TEN DIFFERENT ANSWERS.

WHY?

WHOEVER CONQUERS
THE CITY ALWAYS RENAMES IT. AND
SINCE THE CITY IS SO IMPORTANT—IT'S THE
ONLY PASSAGE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS
TO THE OCEAN ON THE OTHER SIDE—it
GETS CONQUERED A LOT.



THAT'S WHY
ERZI'S SETTING
HIS BODYGUARD
ON YOU KIDS, SO
THAT YOU'LL
TOUGHEN UP...

OH, THERE
SHE IS!



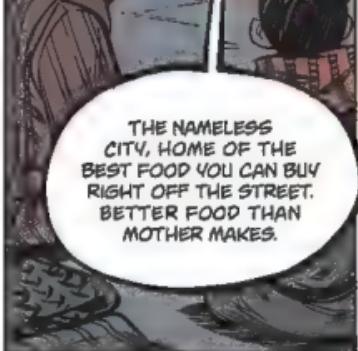
HOI, KIDDY!
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE.

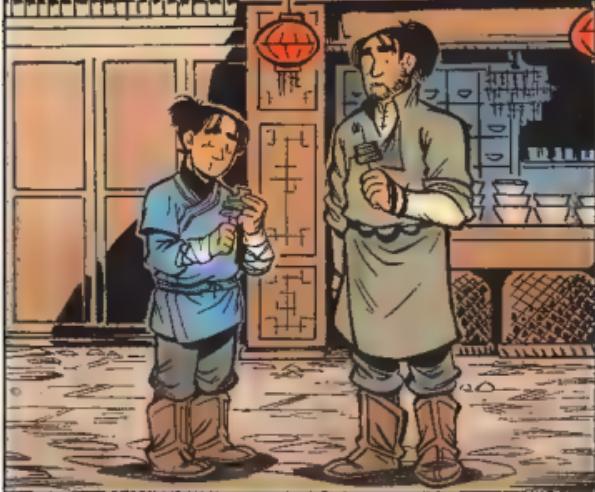


HUNGRY? I
CAN GRAB YOU ONE,
IF YOU'D LIKE.







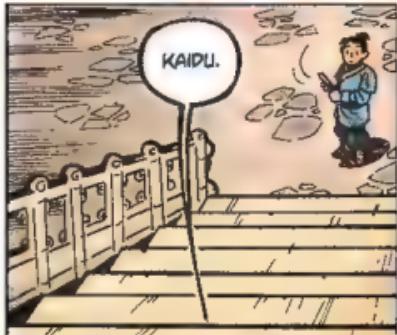












HOW WAS YOUR FIELD TRIP? DID YOU ENJOY SLACKING OFF WHILE THE REST OF US GOT BEATEN UP BY THAT SKRAL GIRL?

SKRAL? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

YOU REALLY ARE A LOSER. SKRAL IS ANYONE FOREIGN. ANYONE NOT DAO.

ANYONE NOT A PERSON.

YOU SHOULDN'T CALL HER THAT.

SHE'S ERZI'S BODYGUARD AND HE'S THE SON OF THE GENERAL OF ALL BLADES.

I'LL CALL CITY SCUM WHAT IT IS.

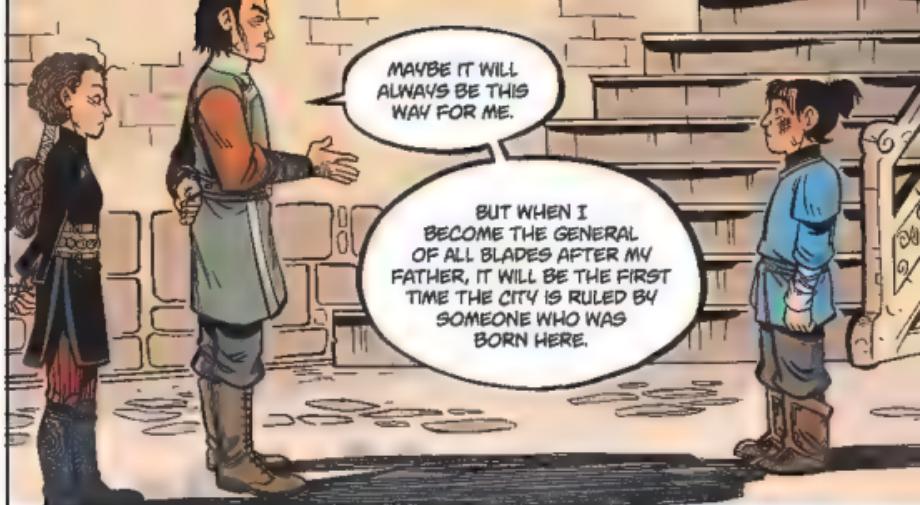
IT'S PATHETIC, THE PRINCE OF THE DAO EMPIRE ASSOCIATING WITH TRASH.

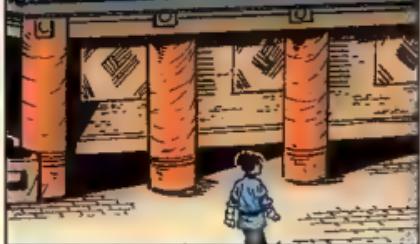














Kaidu,

YOU ARE THIRTEEN YEARS OLD
NOW, ALMOST A GROWN-UP.

AT FIRST I WAS
SAD WHEN YOU
TOLD ME YOU
WANTED TO GO
TO THE CITY OF
DANDAO TO MEET
YOUR FATHER.



I WILL MISS YOU
VERY MUCH, BUT
YOU SHOULD GO OUT
IN THE WORLD AND FIND
YOUR PLACE. YOUR
FATHER'S PLACE IS IN
THE CITY AMONG THE
MANY PEOPLE WHO LIVE
THERE, AND MINE IS
HERE IN THE HOMELANDS,
LEADING OUR TRIBE.



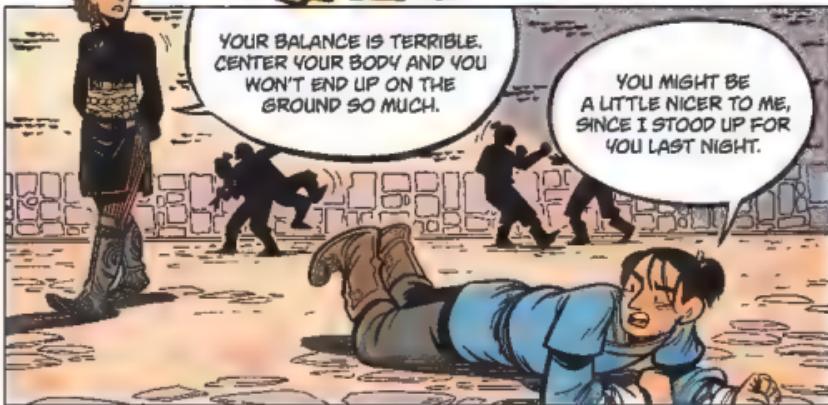


MAYBE YOU WILL FIND YOUR FUTURE IN THE CITY, OR
PERHAPS YOU WILL COME HOME TO ME.



DAY 2





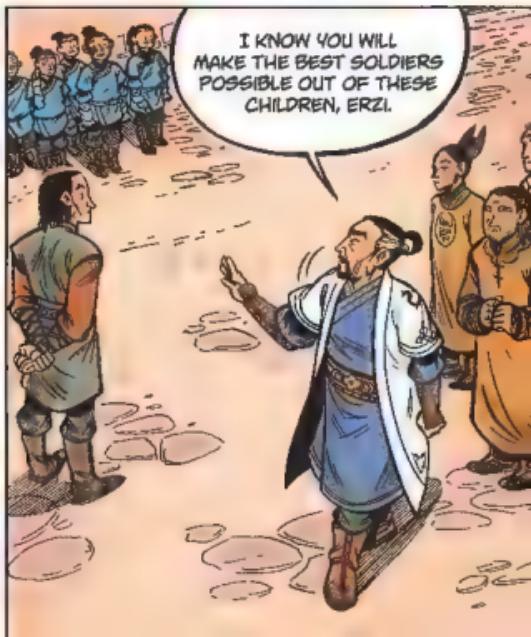


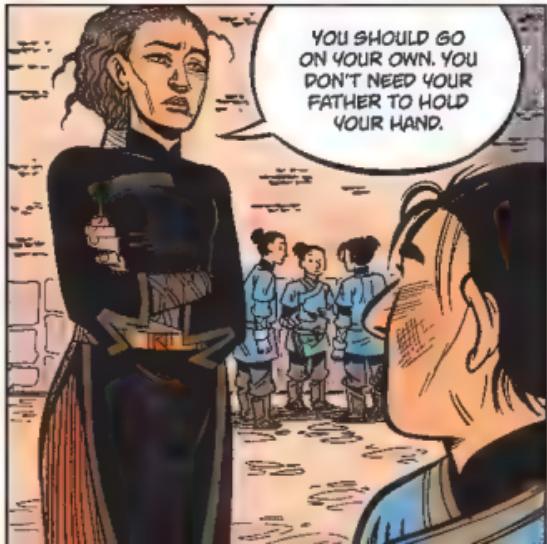


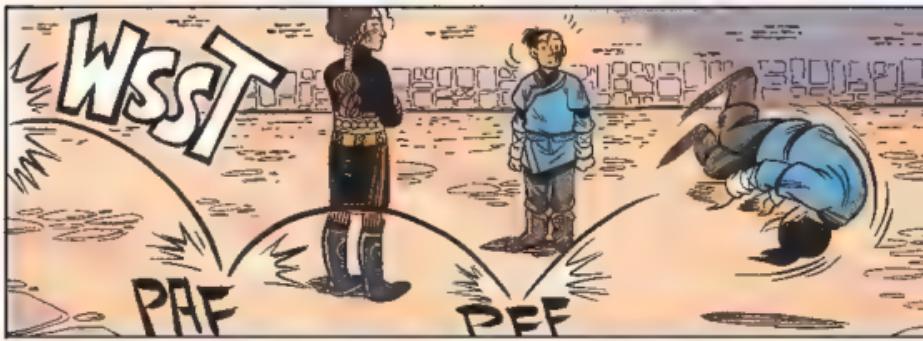


I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!



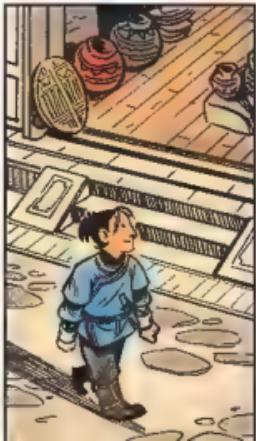
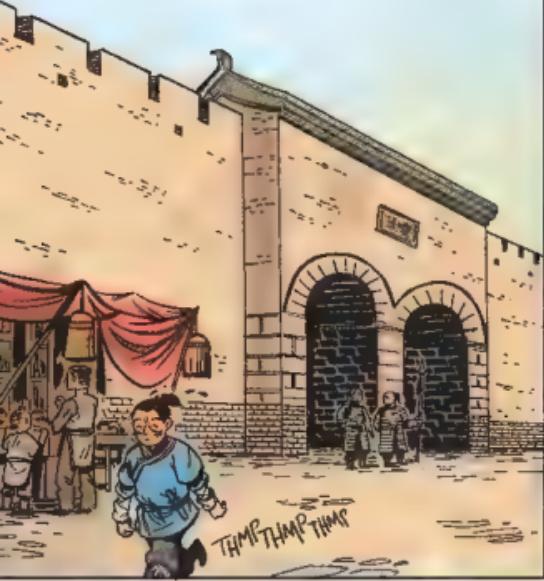




















DAO,
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING?



I SAID,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

WALKING TOWARD
THAT BUILDING. WHAT
DOES IT LOOK LIKE
I'M DOING?

I CAN
SEE YOU'RE
WALKING,
I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING.

MAYBE IT'S
NONE OF YOUR
BUSINESS WHAT
I'M DOING.

I THINK
IT IS.



I ASKED A BUNCH OF PEOPLE HOW TO GET TO THE PALACE AND THEY WALKED RIGHT BY ME...

ACTED LIKE I WASN'T EVEN THERE. WHAT'S THEIR PROBLEM?



YOU'RE LOST, HUH?

I'M NOT LOST. I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET HOME.

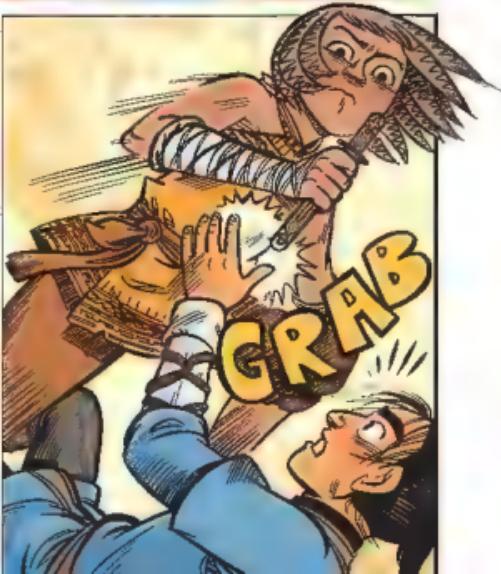


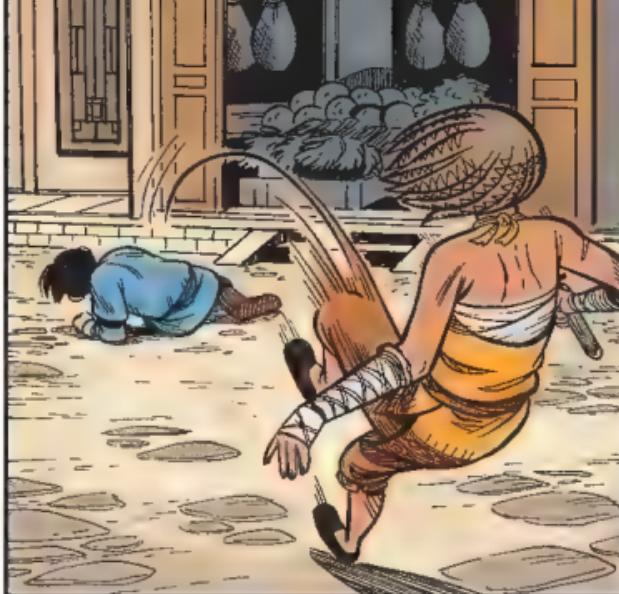
HMF.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, YOU MAKING THAT FACE?

NOTHING. GIVE ME THAT KNIFE, AND I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE PALACE.



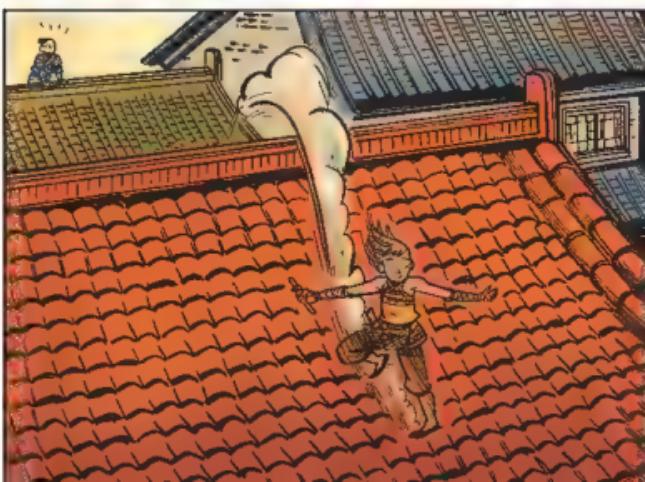
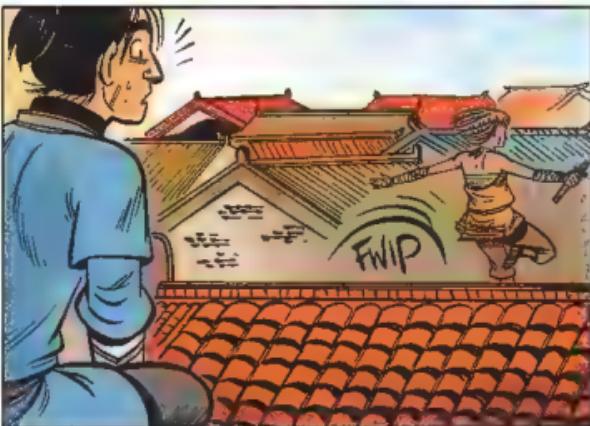
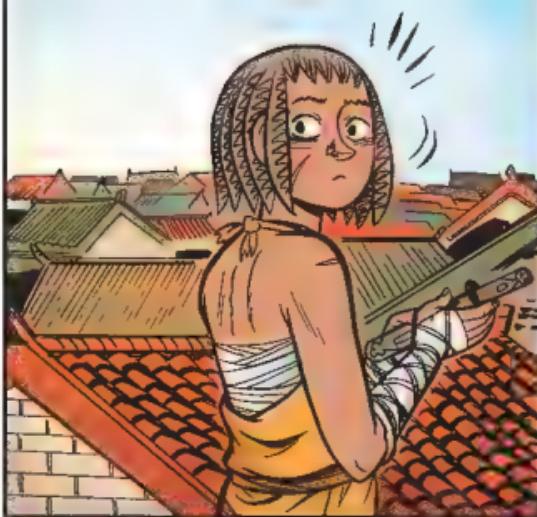




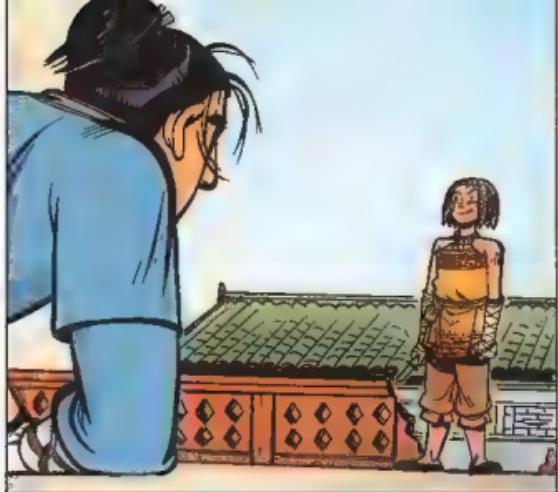






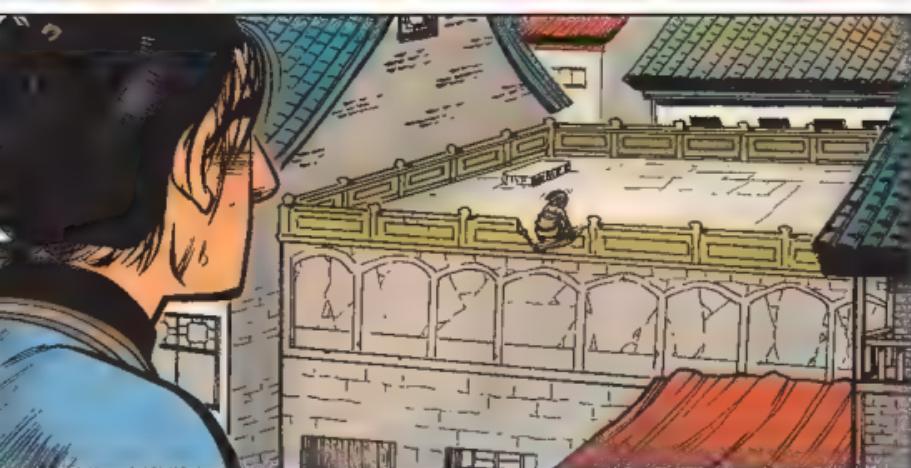
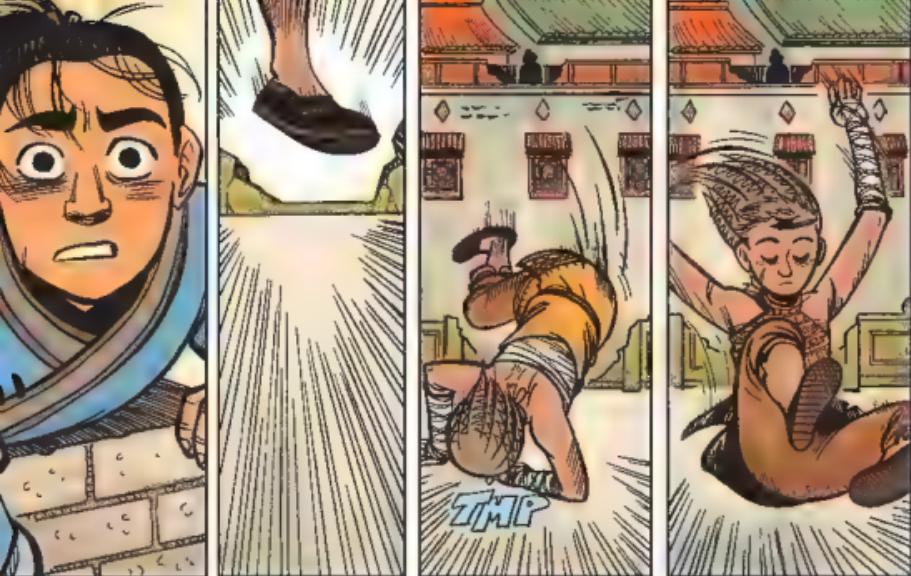


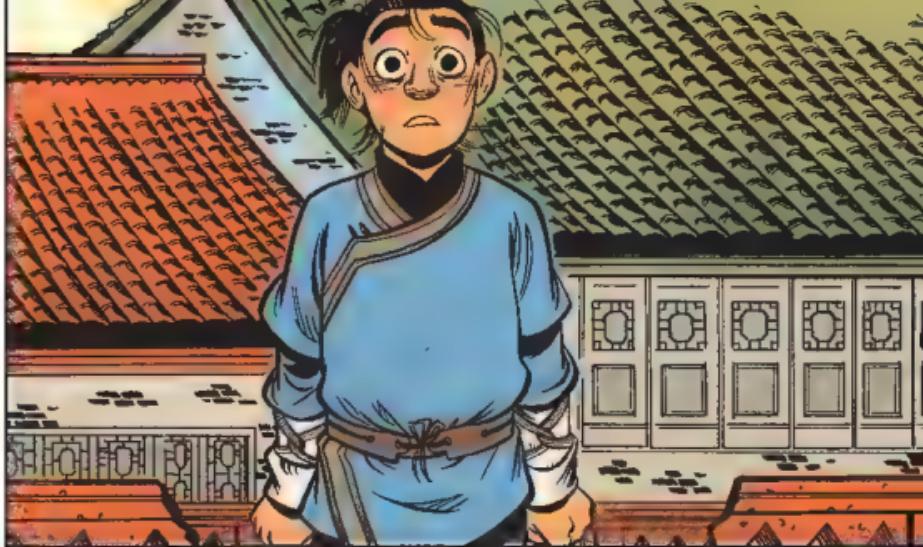








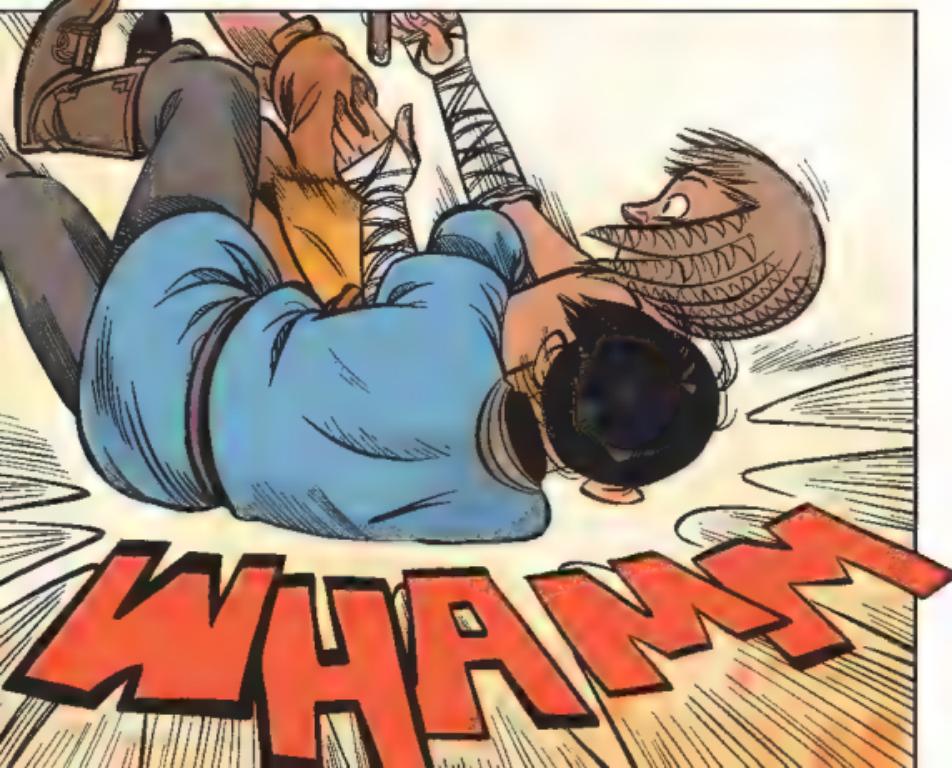


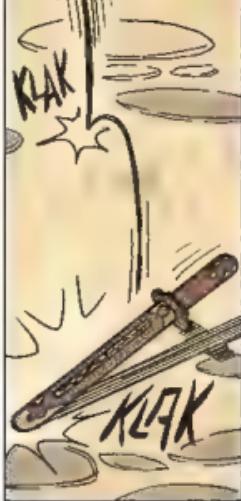




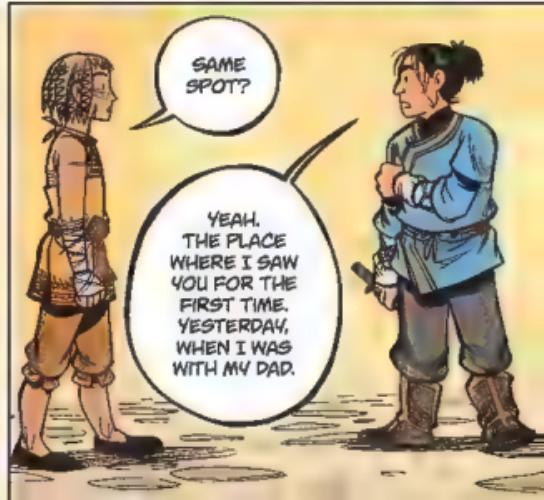
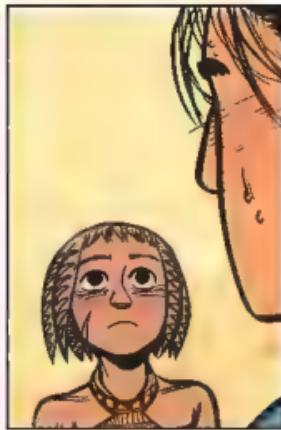
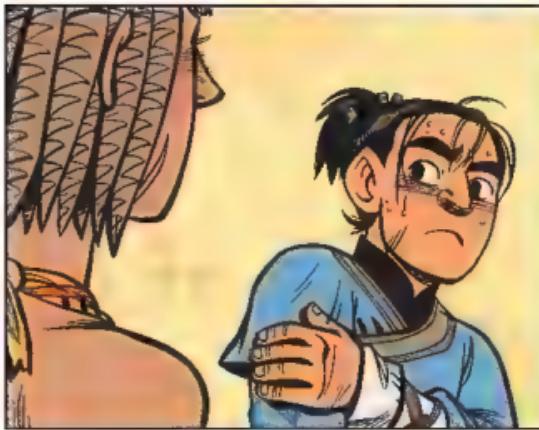


FWUMP

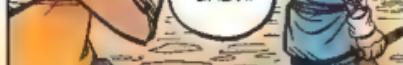












URGH.









TEN MINUTES LATER...











DAY 3

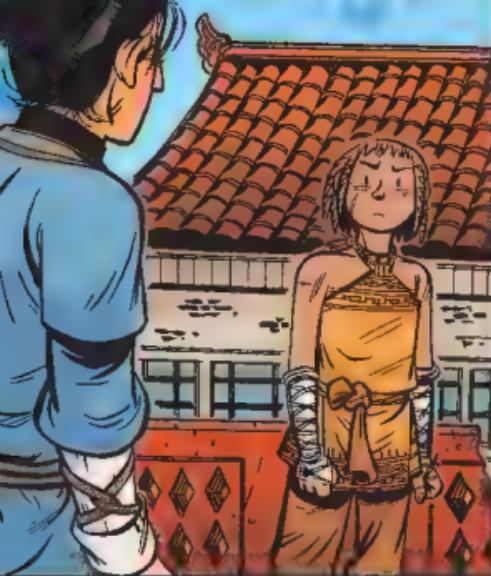




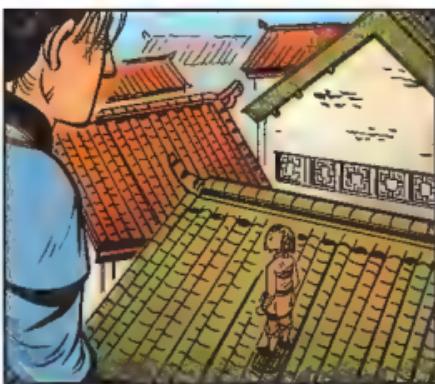
TEN MINUTES LATER...













DAY 4



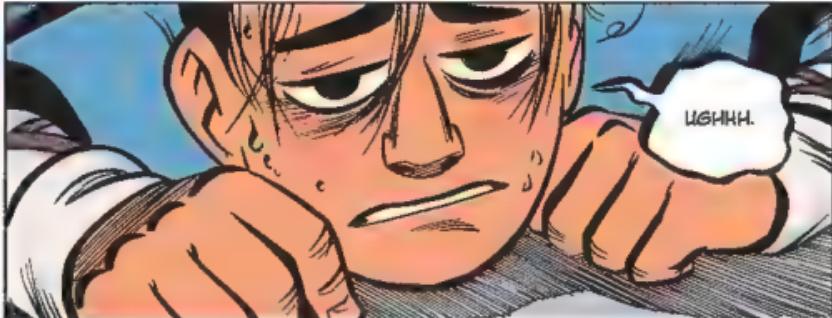






MANY MINUTES LATER...

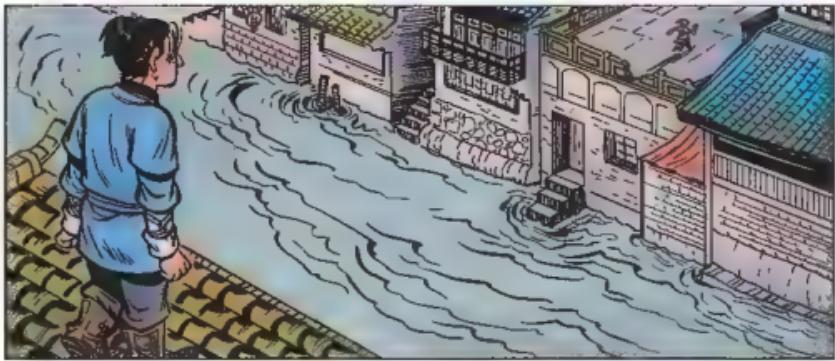
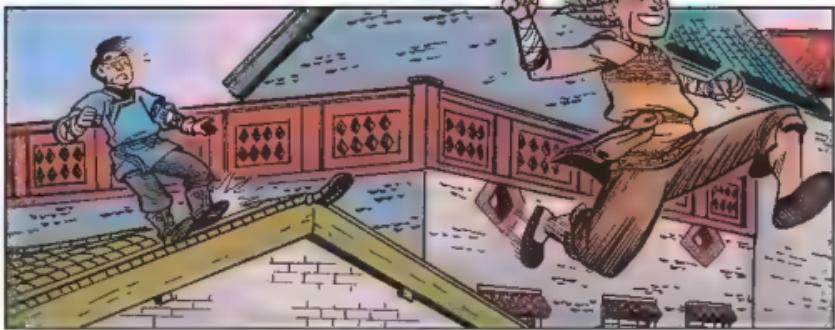




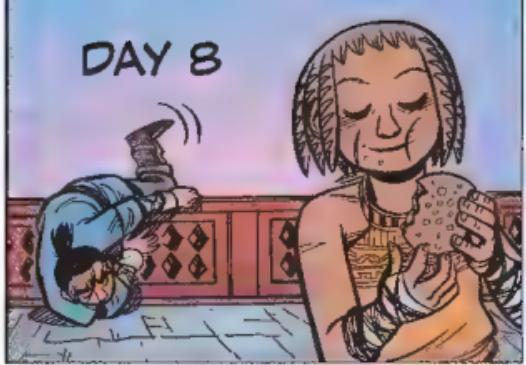
DAY 5



DAY 6



DAY 8

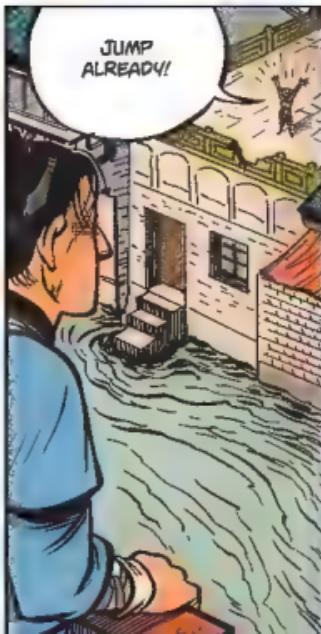
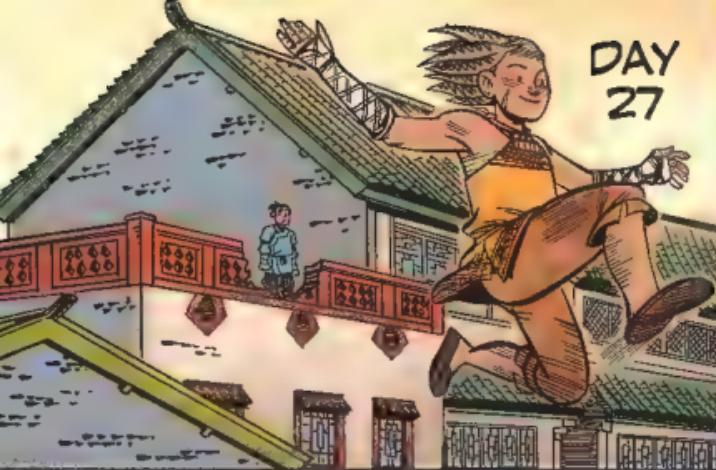


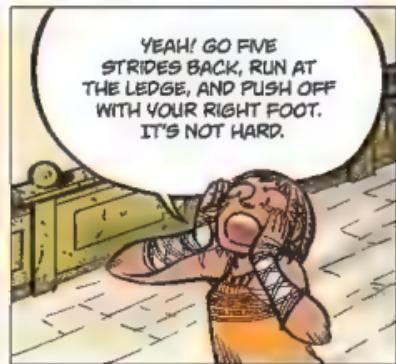
DAY
11

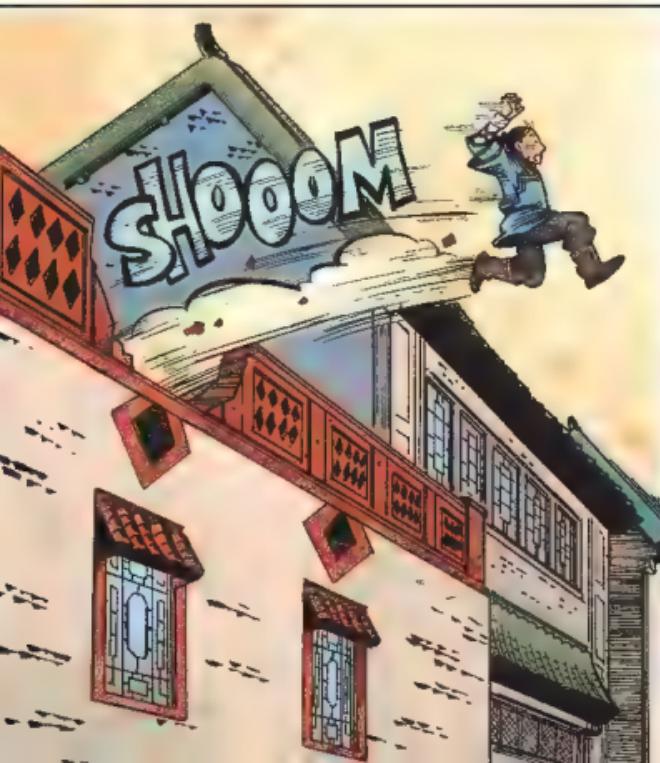
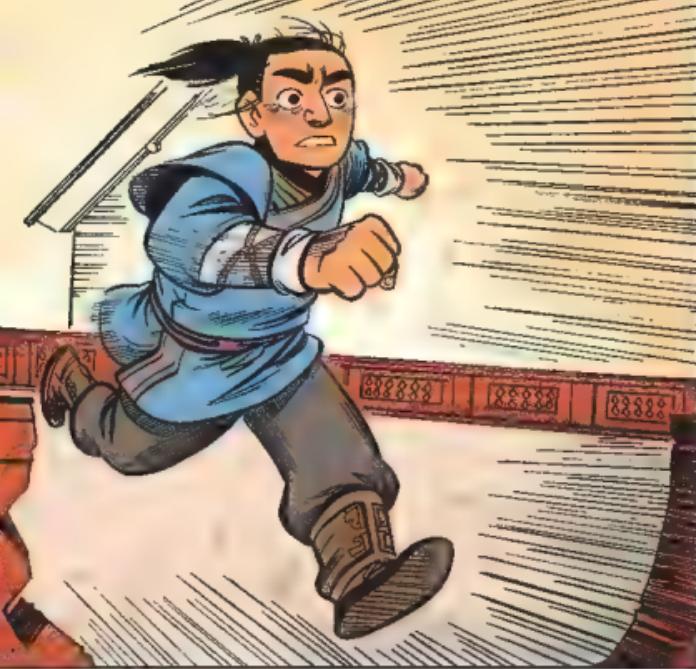


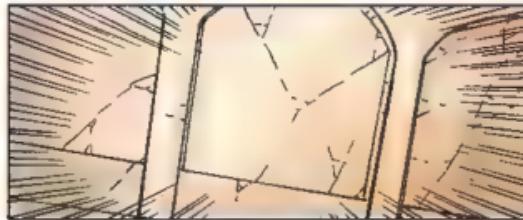
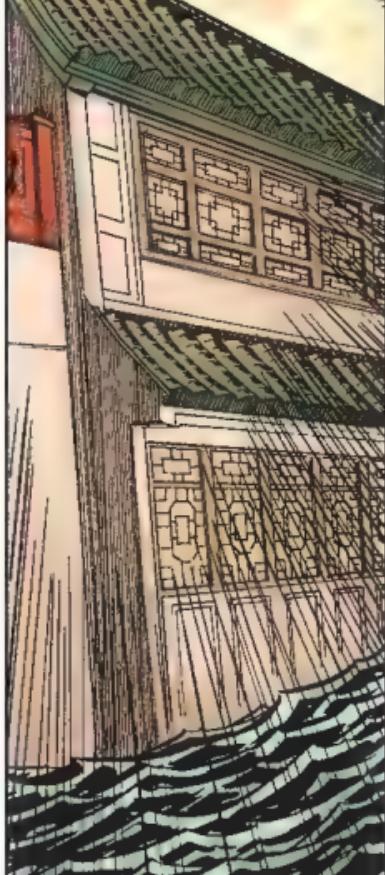
DAY 19





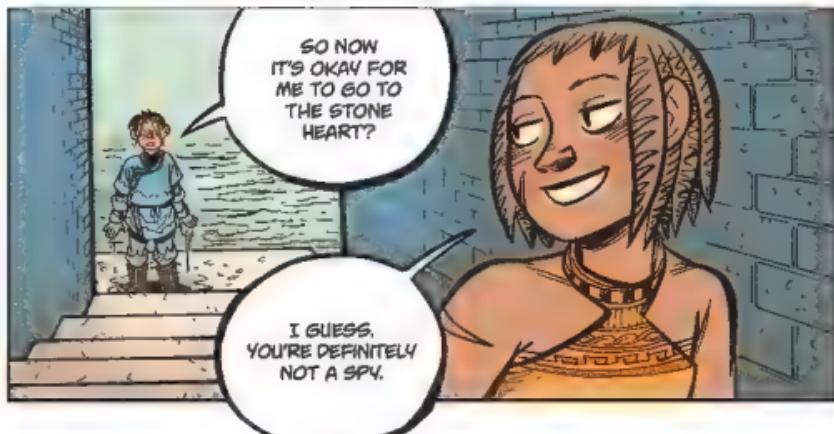


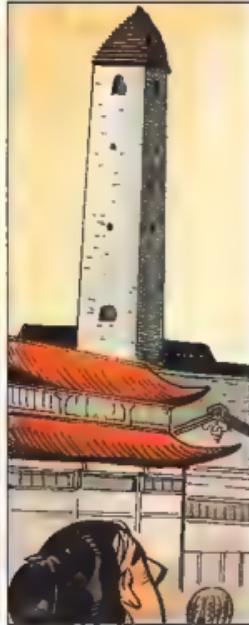
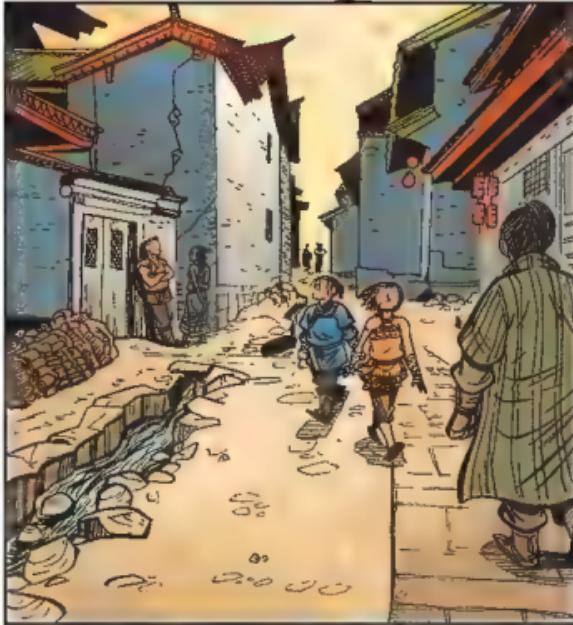


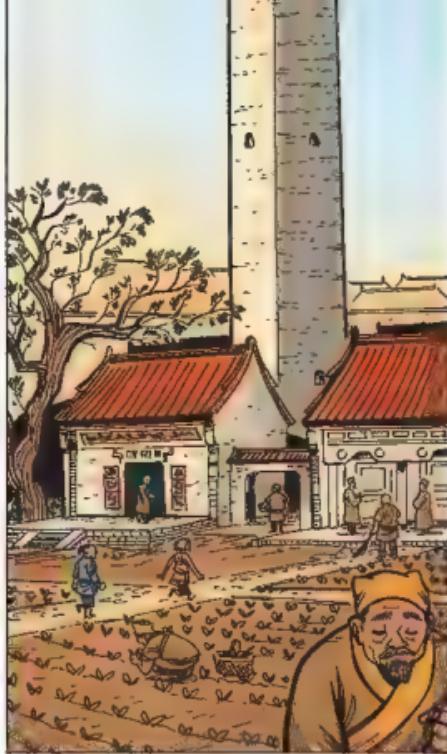




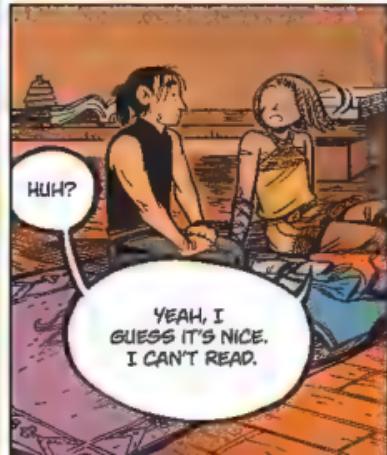












OH, I'M
SORRY.

I GOT
BETTER
THINGS TO DO
THAN READ.

YOU DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT ME.

I WISH I
LIVED HERE.
YOU'RE SO
LUCKY.

DON'T SAY
I'M LUCKY.
EVER.

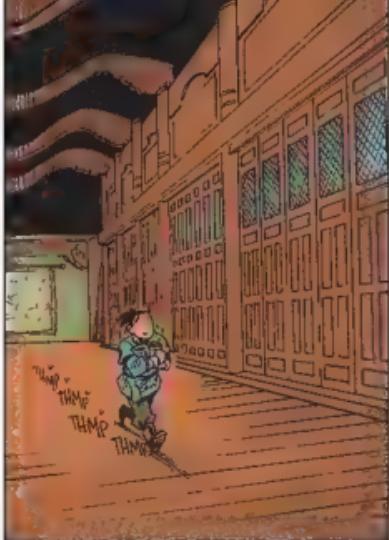
LATER





DAY 28











ANDREN HAS IT
IN HIS HEAD THAT THE
DAO SHOULD FORM A
COUNCIL WITH THE OTHER
TWO GREAT NATIONS, THE
YISUN AND THE LIAO, AS WELL
AS SOME OF THE OTHER
SMALLER NATIONS.



THIS COUNCIL
WOULD OVERSEE
PANDAO, SPLITTING THE
WEALTH OF ITS TRADE
ROUTES AMONG ALL
NATIONS.

HAVE YOU EVER
HEARD ANYTHING
SO RIDICULOUS?

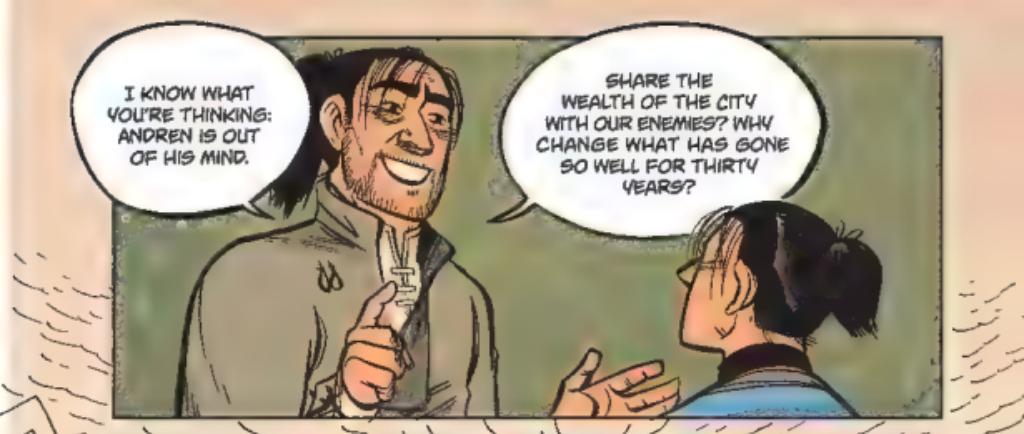


SHARE
THE CITY WITH
OUR ENEMIES?
OUR CITY?



THE CITY WE
HAVE BROUGHT PEACE
AND PROSPERITY
TO FOR THE PAST
THIRTY YEARS?

ANDREN
IS OUT OF
HIS MIND.



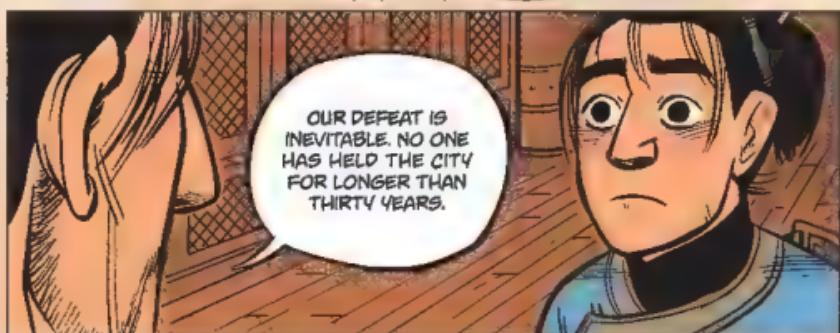
I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE THINKING:
ANDREN IS OUT
OF HIS MIND.

SHARE THE
WEALTH OF THE CITY
WITH OUR ENEMIES? WHY
CHANGE WHAT HAS GONE
SO WELL FOR THIRTY
YEARS?

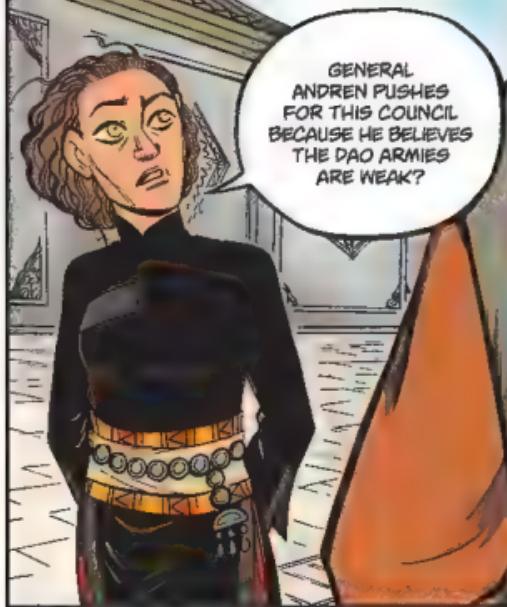


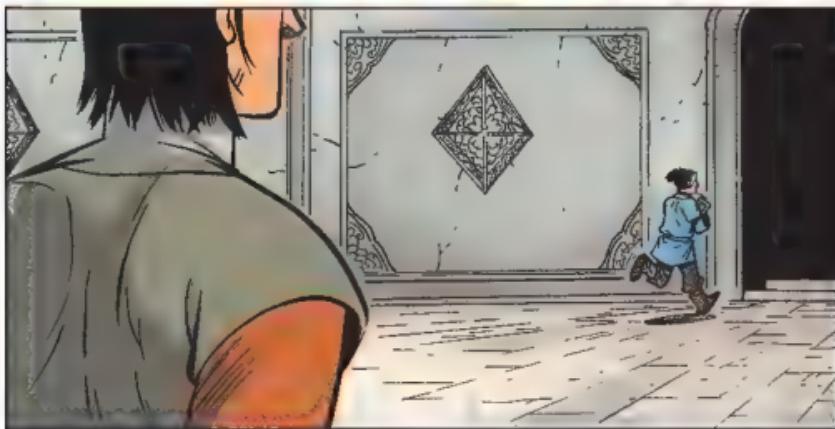
BUT BETWEEN
PROTECTING OUR
HOMELAND AND OCCUPYING
THE CITY, OUR ARMIES ARE
STRETCHED THIN.

ONE DAY A
STRONGER NATION
WILL DRIVE US FROM
THE CITY.



OUR DEFEAT IS
INEVITABLE. NO ONE
HAS HELD THE CITY
FOR LONGER THAN
THIRTY YEARS.







I DON'T KNOW WHO STARTED CALLING US THE NAMED.

MAYBE THE MONKS, YEARS AGO. PROBABLY BECAUSE IT MAKES THEM FEEL SPECIAL.

JOAH SAYS THE CITY'S PEOPLE ARE ITS HEART AND SOUL.



THE CITY IS INVADED AND CONQUERED OVER AND OVER, SO IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, THE NAMED CHOOSE NOT TO FIGHT.

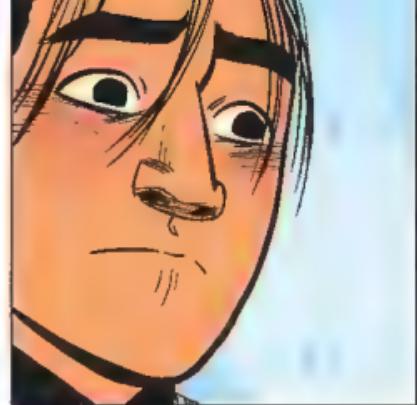
WE LET THE CYCLE OF WAR AND INVASION PASS OVER US.

DON'T FIGHT. JUST LIVE.



AND BECAUSE WE CHOOSE TO LIVE THIS WAY, WE CAN ENDURE.





YEAH. LOTS OF
PEOPLE HAVE LOTS
OF GOOD IDEAS
ABOUT THE CITY.

RAT,
WHAT ARE
THOSE?

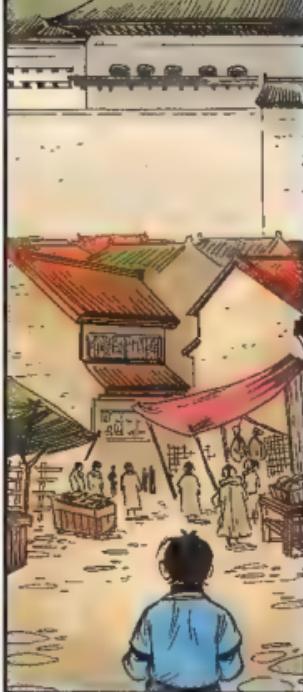
THESE ARE DAO
MILITARY BOOTS. DO
YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN IF YOU WERE
SEEN WITH THEM?

DON'T
TELL ME WHAT
TO DO.

RAT-
DON'T TELL
ME WHAT TO
DO. YOU'RE NOT
MY PARENTS! MY
PARENTS ARE
DEAD!









DAY 29























WHY DID
YOU COME TO
THE CITY?

BECAUSE I
WANTED TO.



NO ONE
COMES TO THE
CITY BECAUSE THEY
WANT TO. THEY COME
BECAUSE THEY HAVE
THINGS TO SELL
OR BUY.



OR THEY
COME TO
CONQUER.



I CAME
TO THE CITY
BECAUSE I
WANTED TO.

BELIEVE
ME OR DON'T. I
DON'T CARE.



WE HAVE TO
GET OUT OF HERE.

PEOPLE OF
THE NAMELESS CITY!
LOOK AT WHAT
YOU'RE DOING!

WHAT?
WHY?

CONSORTING,
DRINKING, DANCING WITH
YOUR OPPRESSORS!

THE DAO ARE
MURDERERS AND THIEVES! THEY
STEAL THE WEALTH OF THE CITY
FROM ITS RIGHTEFUL OWNERS!

LISTEN TO ME, NAMED
OF THE NAMELESS CITY: RISE
UP AGAINST THE DAO! DRIVE
THEM FROM OUR CITY!

STOP!

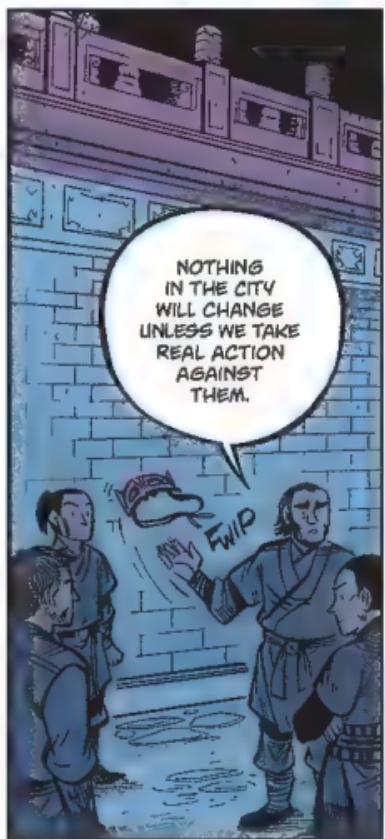














HE'S RIGHT.
YOUR TACTICS ARE
PATHETIC. YOU'LL
NEVER DRIVE THE DAO
OUT OF THE CITY
WITH WORDS.



AND
WHO ARE
YOU?



SOMEONE
WHO WOULD
SEE THE DAO
RETURN TO OUR
HOMELANDS,
WHERE WE
BELONG.





IN TWO
DAYS' TIME YOU
WILL ENTER THE
DAO PALACE DISGUISED
AS SERVANTS. I WILL
ARRANGE THIS
FOR YOU.

YOU WILL
BE SERVING
A GATHERING OF
THE DAO MILITARY
ELITE.



THE GENERAL
OF ALL BLADES AND
HIS SON WILL BE AT
THIS ASSEMBLY. YOU
WILL KILL BOTH
OF THEM.

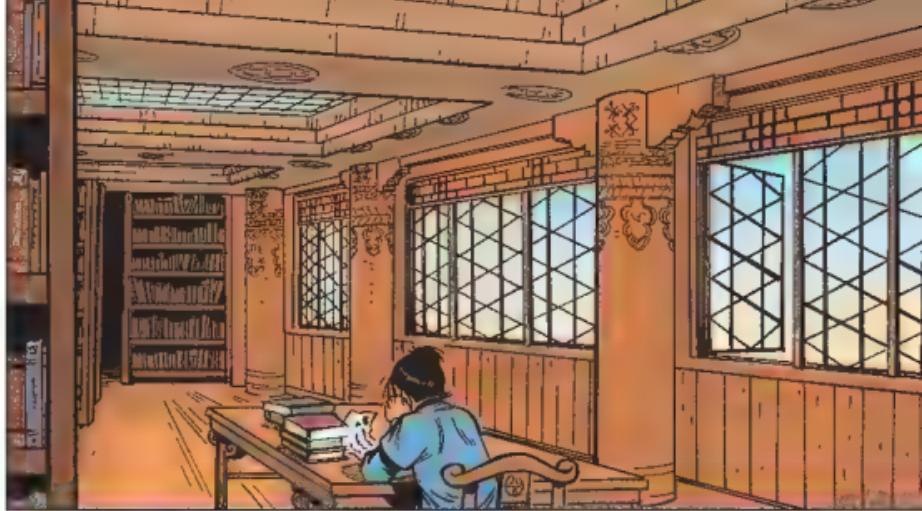






DAY 31









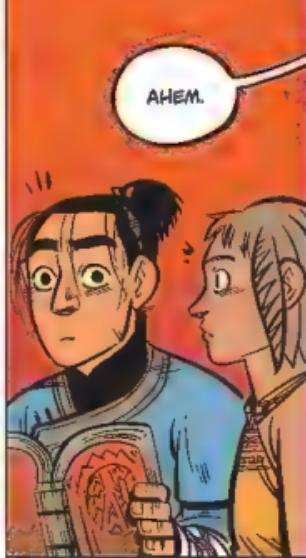






IF WE
COULD MAKE
MORE PASSAGES,
THE NAMELESS CITY
MIGHT NOT BE WORTH
FIGHTING OVER
ANYMORE.

AHEM.











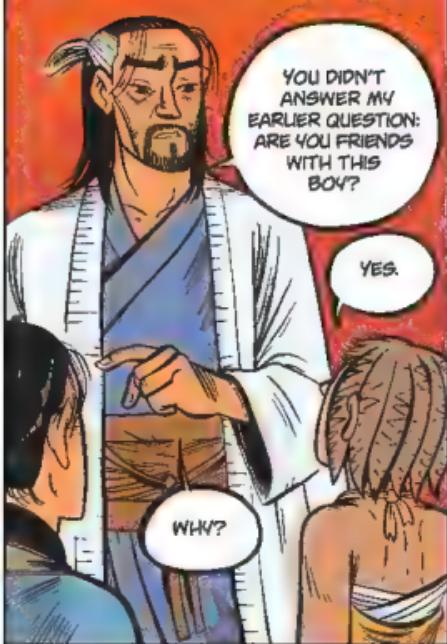
I WANT PEOPLE
TO STOP FIGHTING
OVER THE CITY. I WANT
US TO BE LEFT ALONE
TO LIVE IN PEACE.

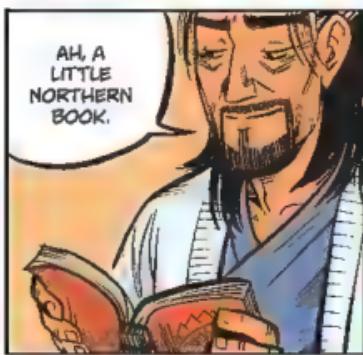


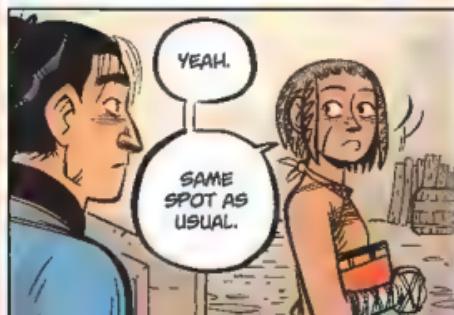
THAT IS
SOMETHING WORTH
WANTING.

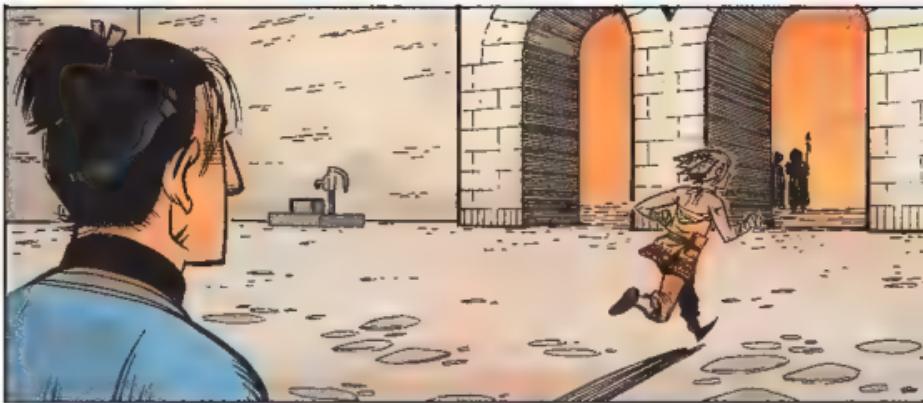


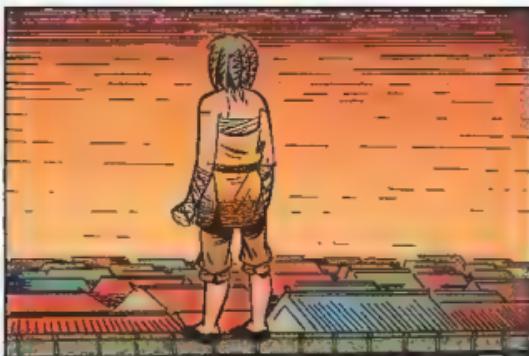
MAYBE IT
WILL BE POSSIBLE
SOMEDAY.

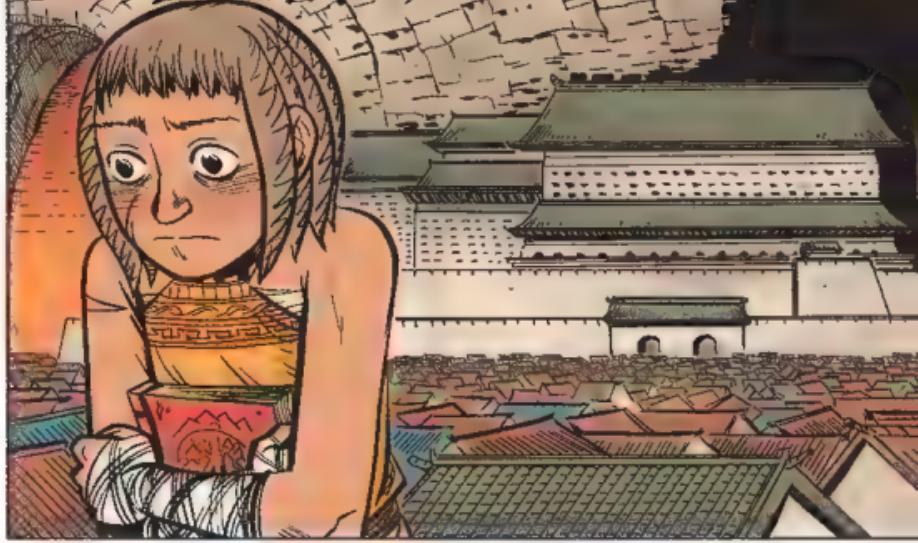






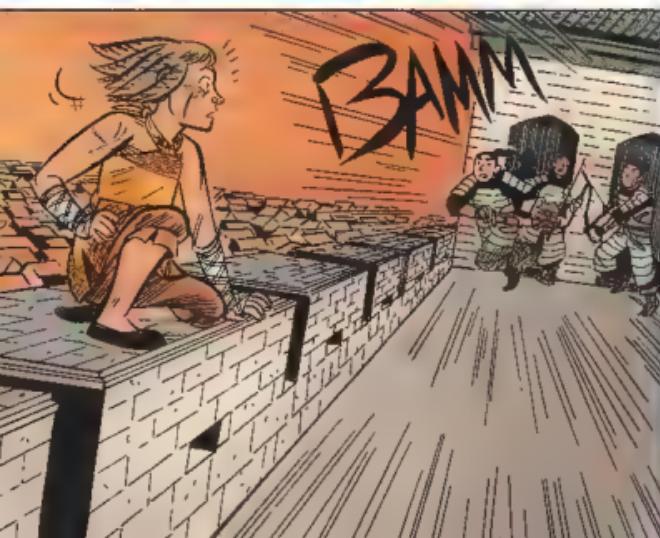


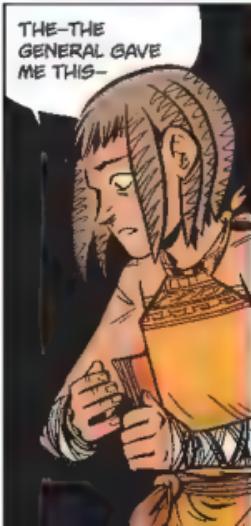
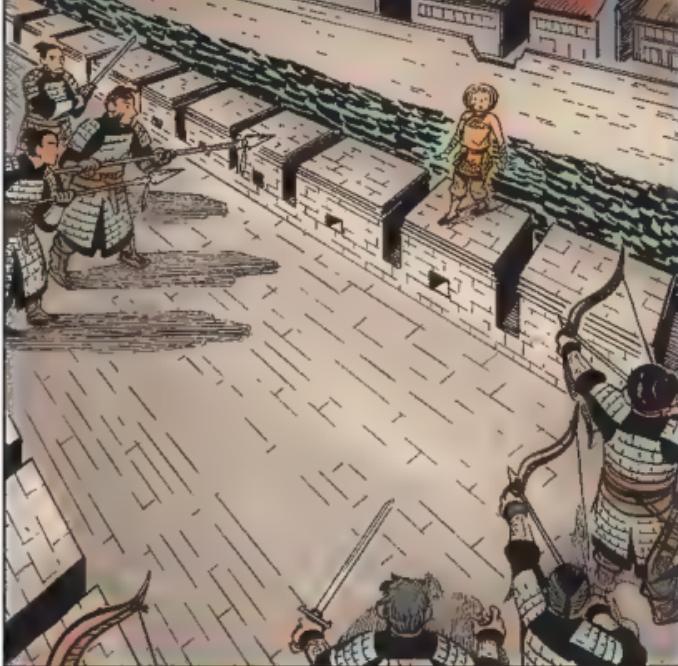








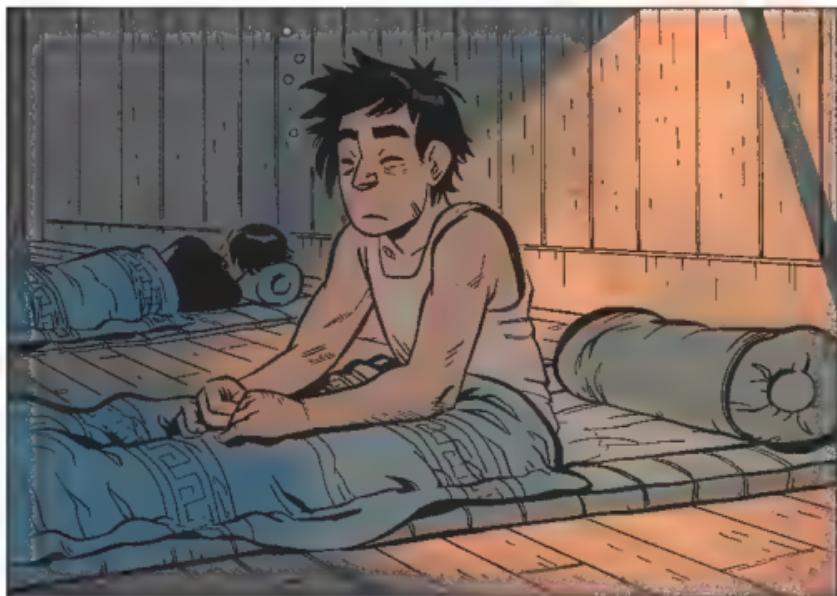








DAY 32

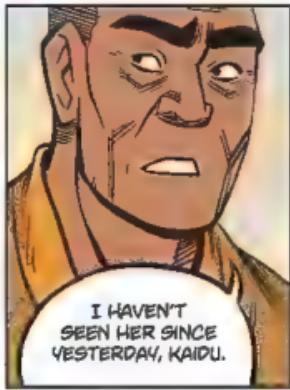






















THAT FALLS
FROM THE RIVER
BESIDE THE DAO
PALACE.



THAT
PASSAGE
LEADS TO
THE SEA.



IF RAT WAS
SWEPT BEYOND THIS
CHAMBER...



SHE HAS
TO BE HERE
SOMEWHERE!

SPLASH

SPLASH



RAT!

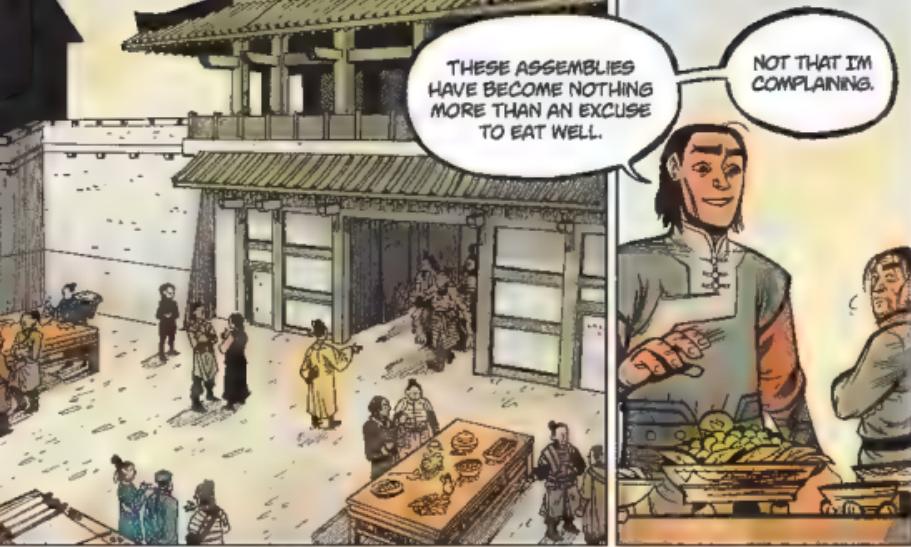




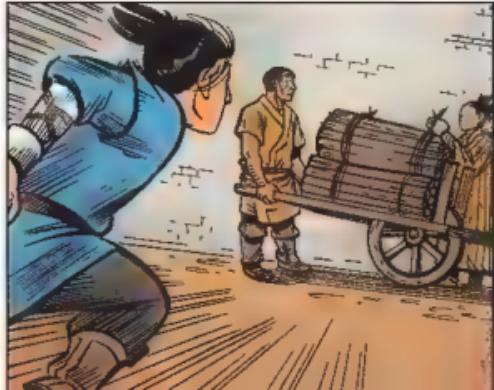


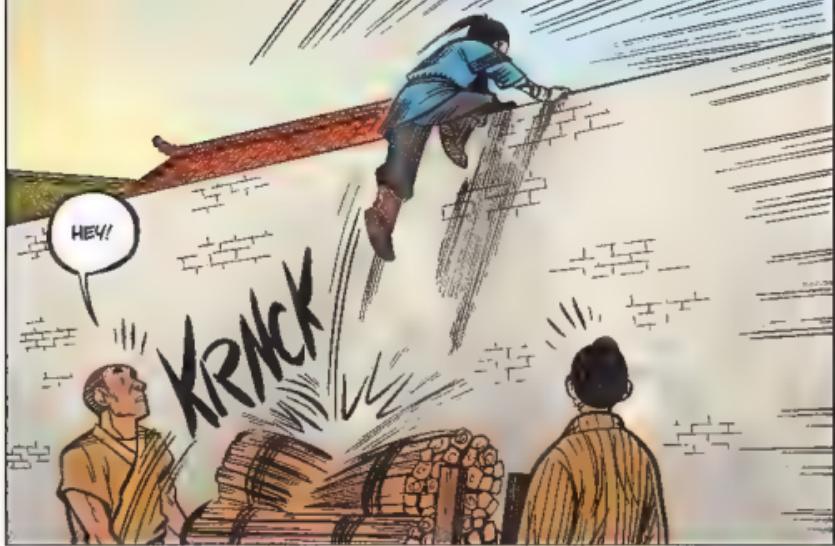




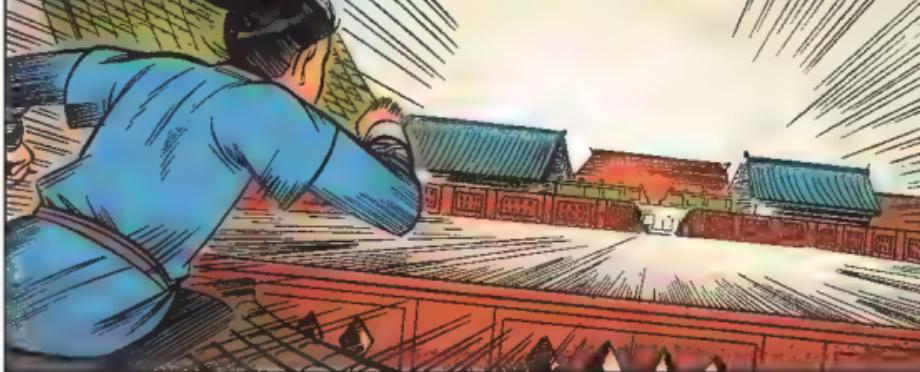


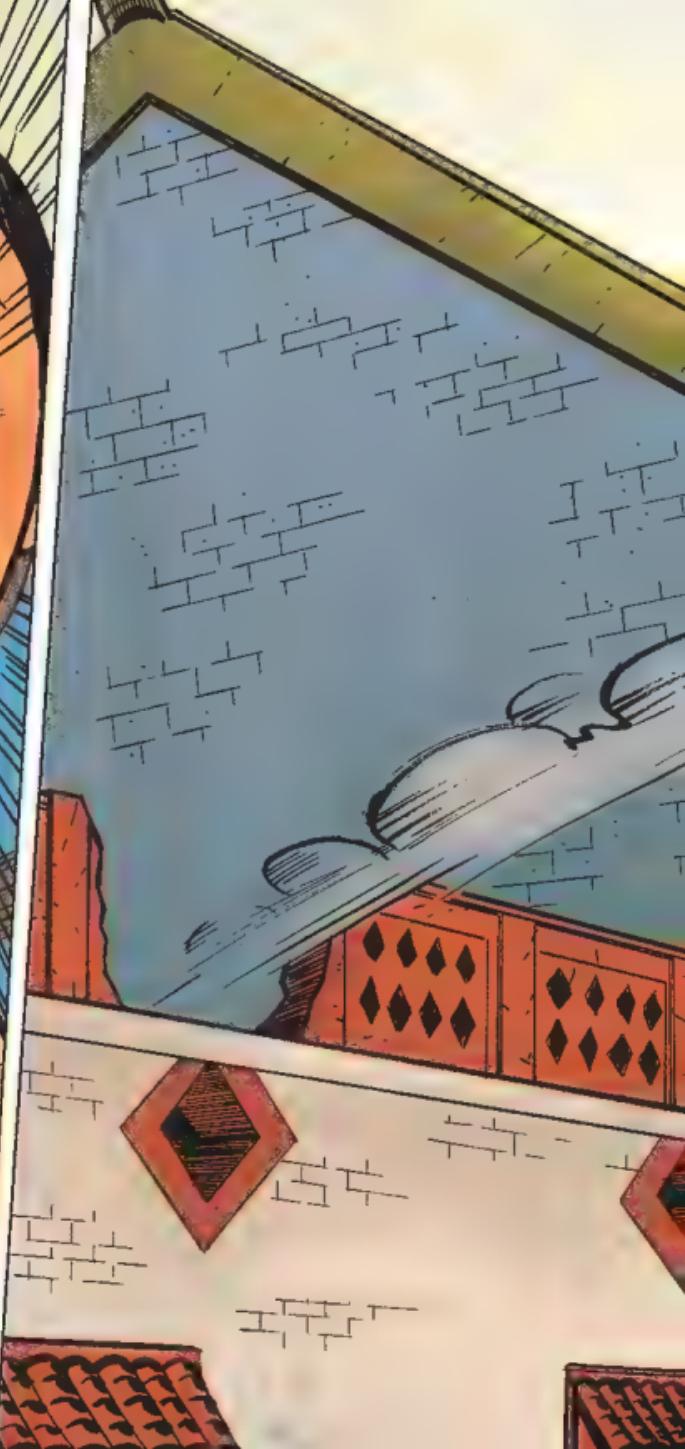


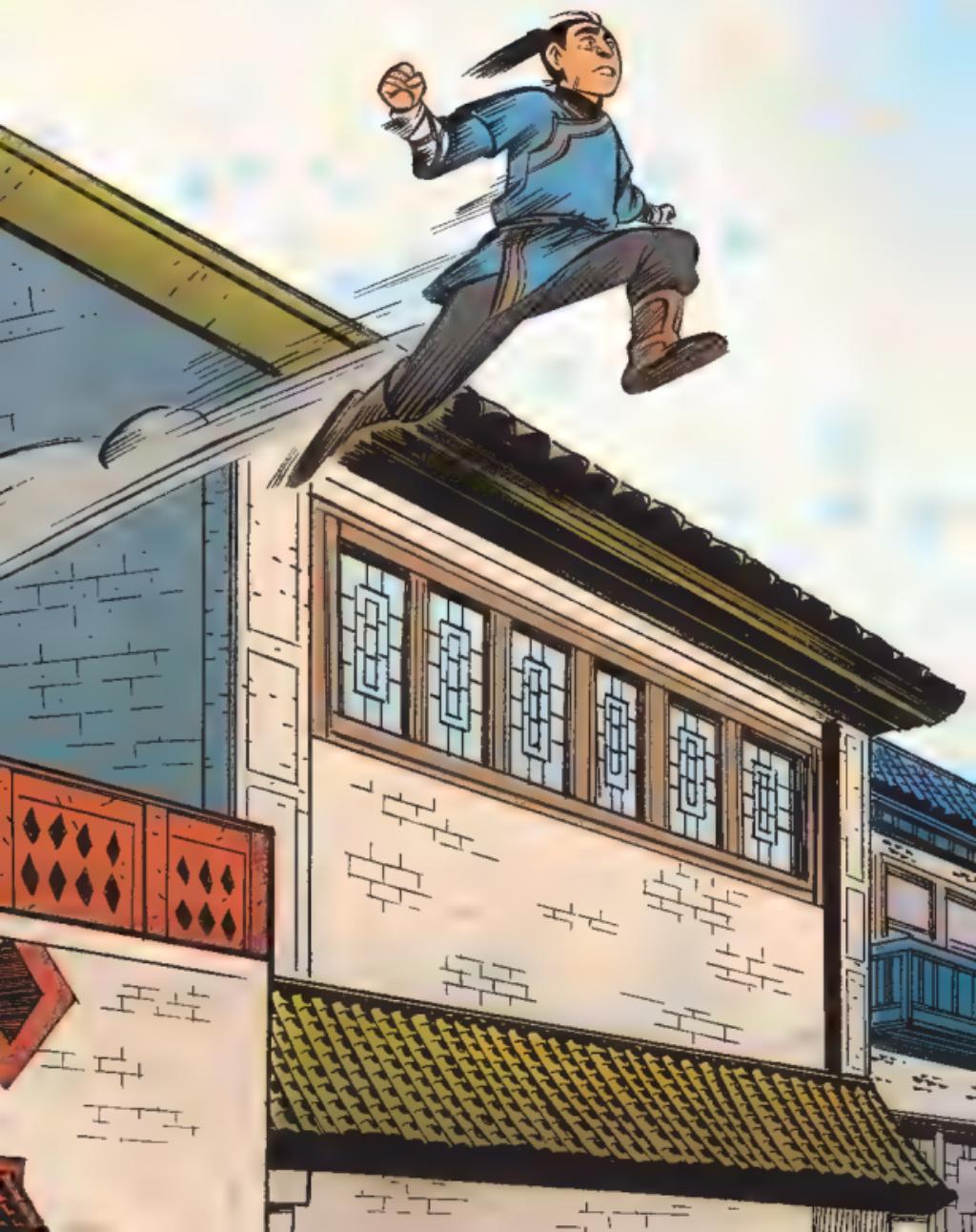






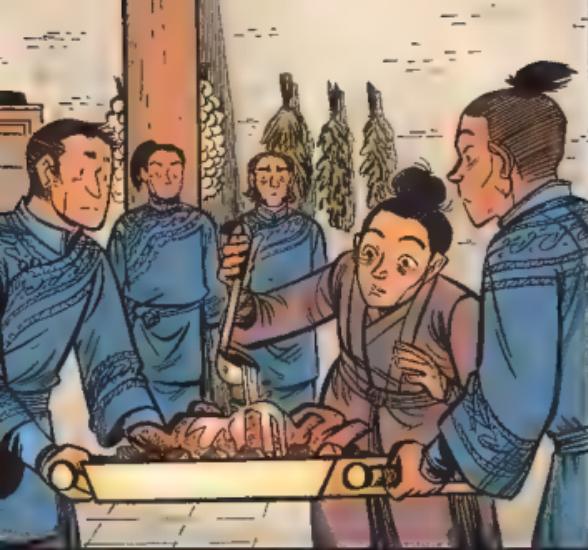














THERE
HASN'T BEEN AN
ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT IN OVER
TEN YEARS.

YOU'RE JUST
SAVING THAT SO
YOU WON'T GET INTO
TROUBLE. YOU WENT
INTO THE CITY ALONE
AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

IT'S
TRUE!
LET ME
THROUGH!

I DON'T
THINK-HEY!

ZIP

GRAB

ERK

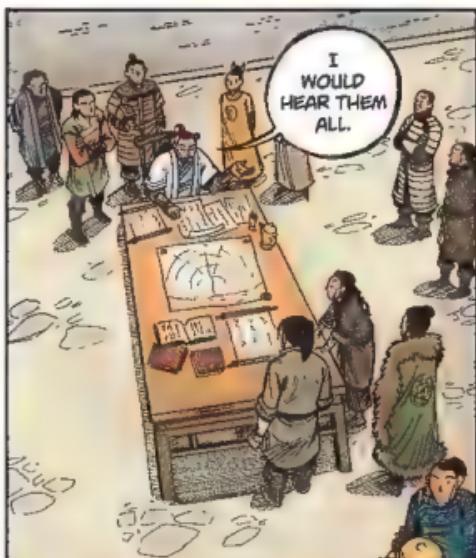
EVERY DAY IN
THE CITY TRULY IS
AN ADVENTURE.

HOLD
STILL,
BRAT-

LET
GO!!











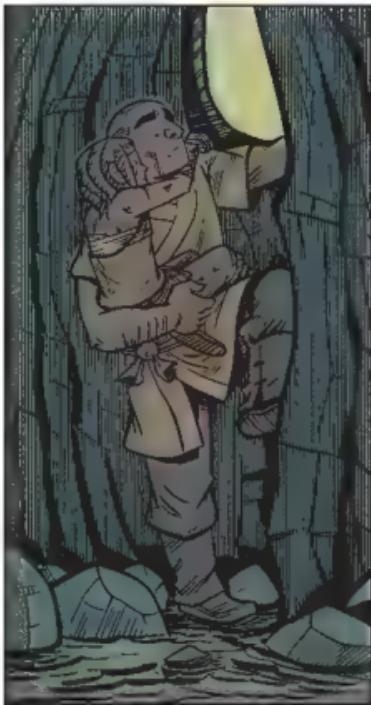


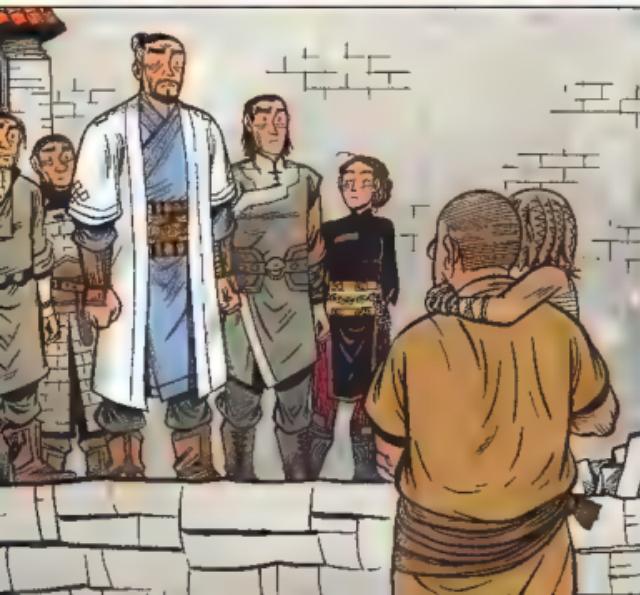




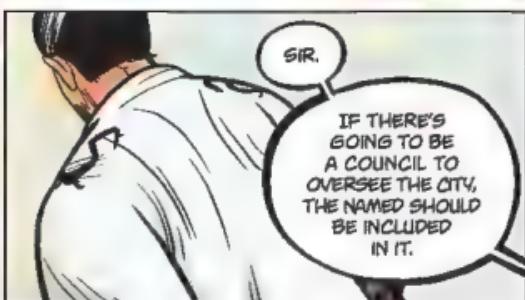
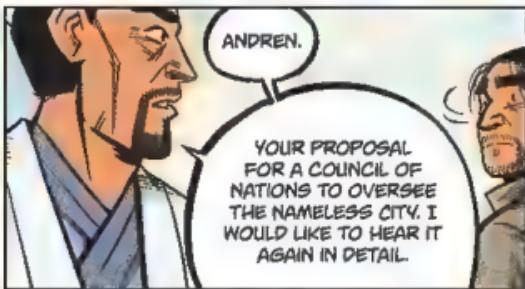






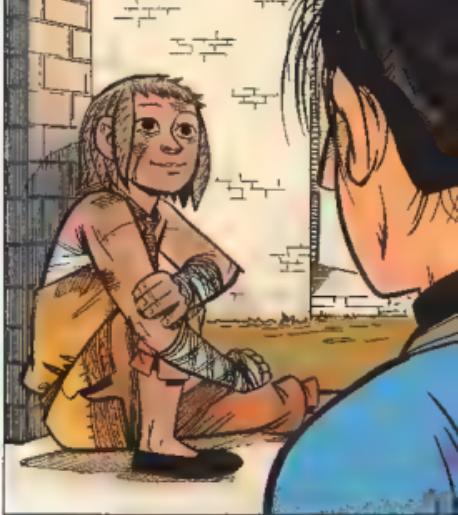


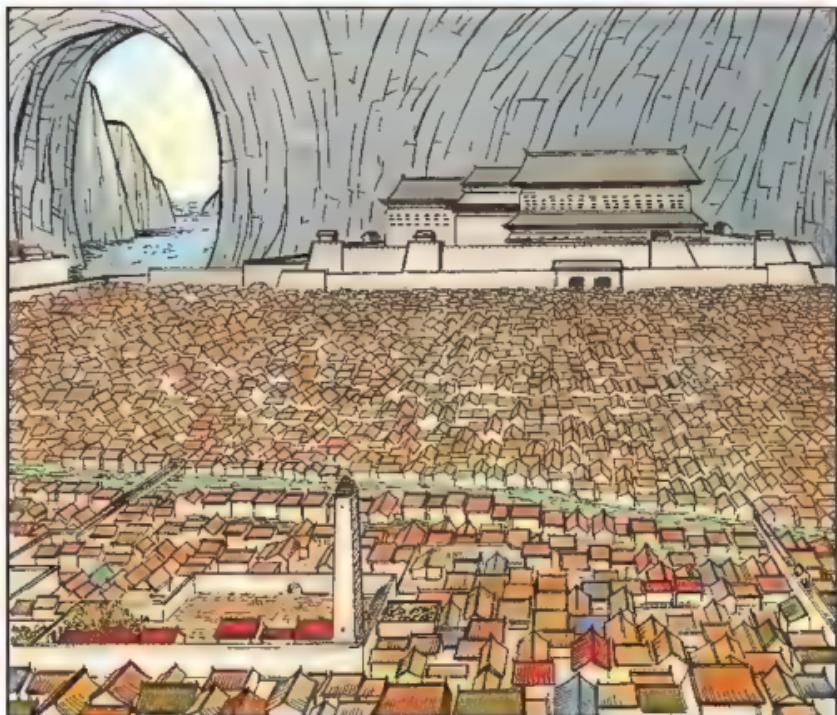
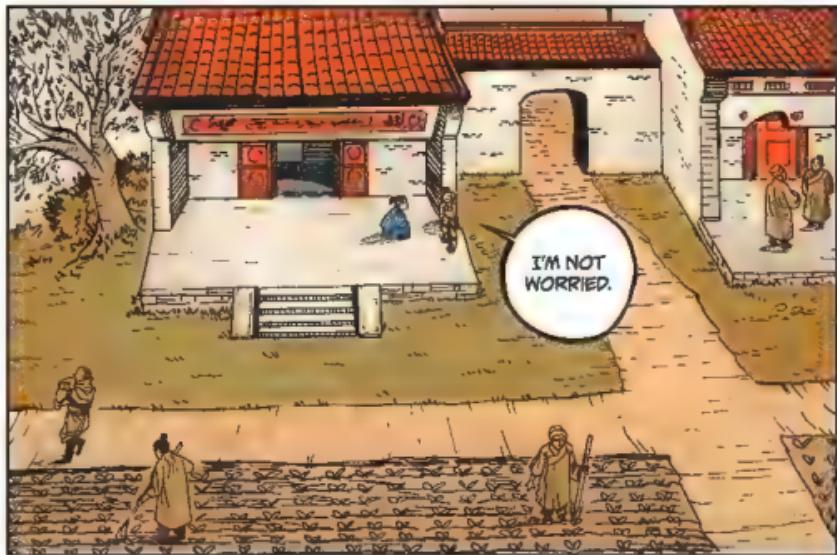












TO BE CONTINUED IN

THE STONE HEART

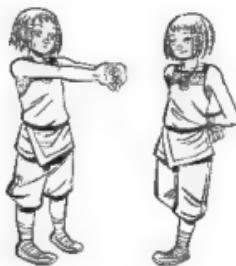
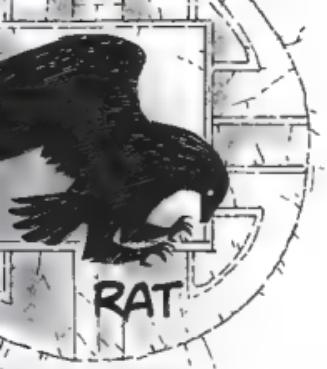
BOOK 2 OF THE NAMELESS CITY SERIES

CONCEPT ART

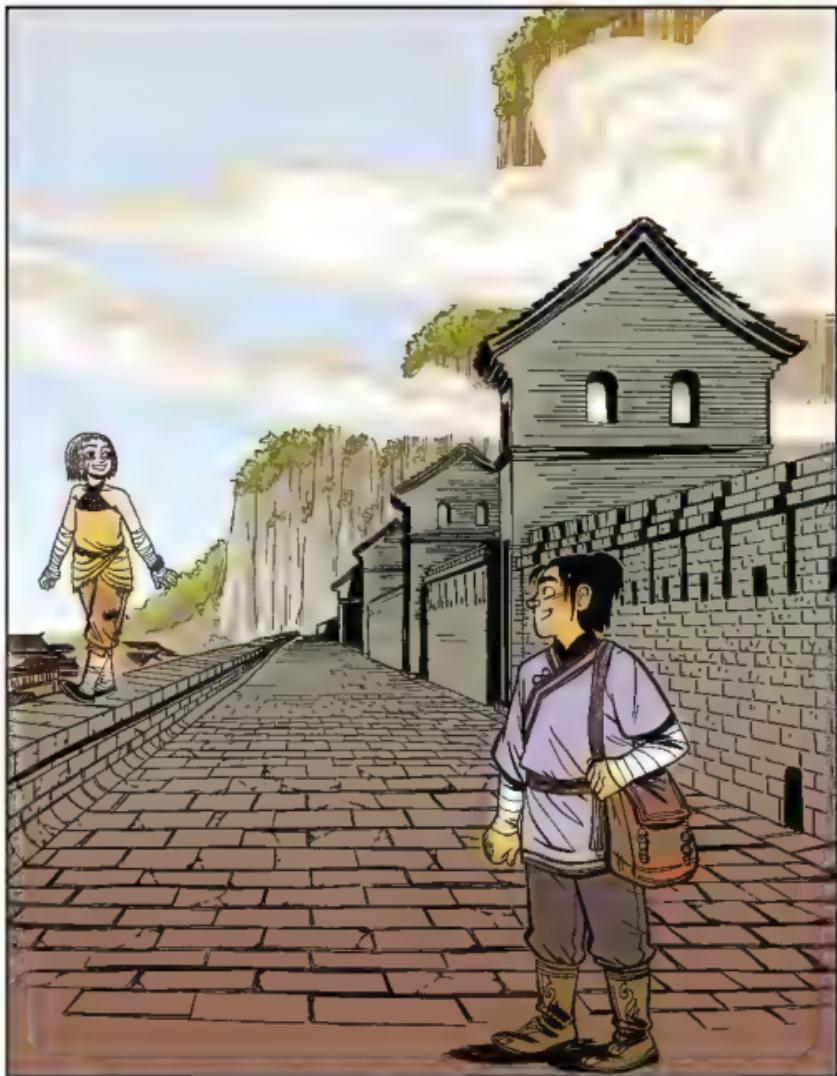
I've been working on *The Nameless City* for a long time, and the characters have changed a lot.
I hope you enjoy seeing their evolution.
-FAITH ERIN HICKS

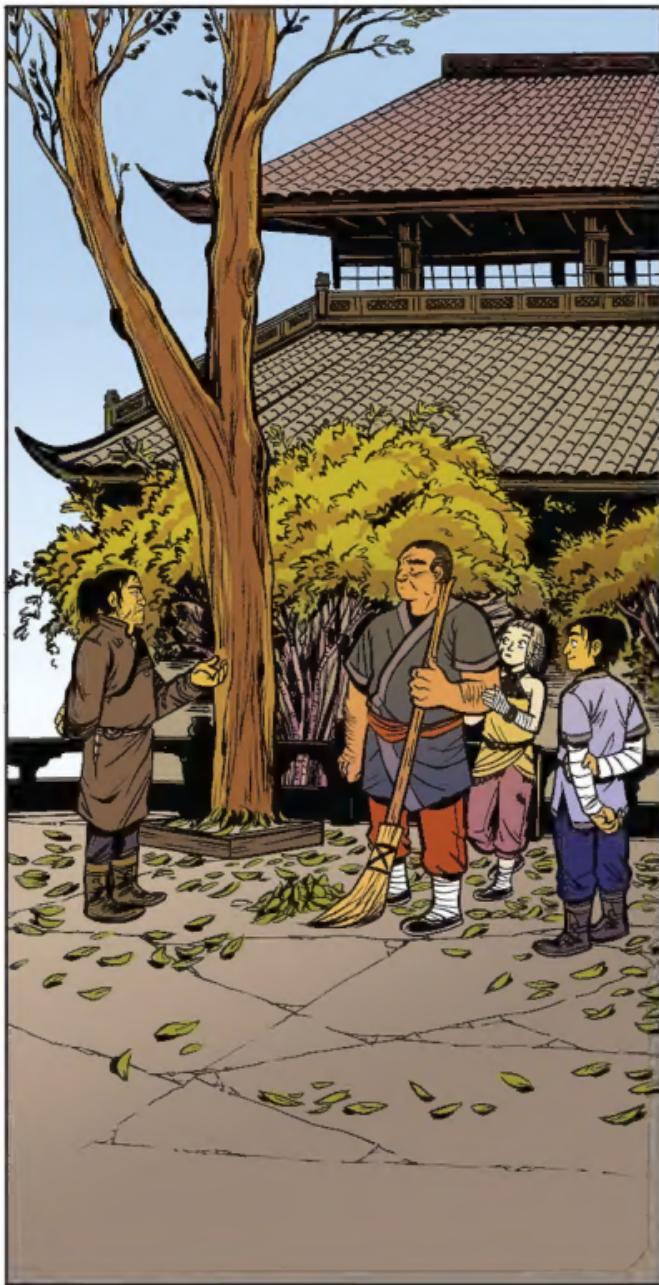














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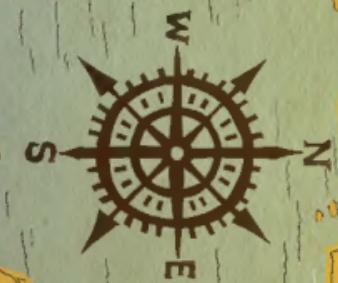


LIRO

RIVER OF LIVES

YISUN

THE NAMELESS CITY



DIRO

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